Bengaluru Sunday, November 16, 2025 Pages 20 Vol 78 No 316 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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The Power of Good

Jadeja goes to RR; CSK buy Samson

Defending champions RCB retain their core

P11

Big Picture

Dignity deficit

India's elders are living longer but lonelier lives. From lack of geriatric care to rising dementia, this is a hydra-like crisis

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Shape of wonder

Antoni Gaudí turned stone into movement, and his designs continue to shape Barcelona's skyline

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Magic of Ras Al Khaimah

Explore the ancient fortresses, pearl farms and monuments in the fourth largest emirate of the UAE, known for its layered history

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Playful reimaginings

The Japanese culinary scene in India has shifted gears from faithful replications of classics to dynamic and creative offerings

Quickly

Govt formation: NDA leaders meet Nitish

With a landslide victory in Bihar Assembly elections placing the NDA firmly in the saddle, leaders of the alliance on Saturday appeared to have got down to the brass tacks of forming a new government in the state.
Details on Page 3

Siddu meets Rahul, says no political talk

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi here on Saturday. Siddaramaiah was in Delhi to attend a book release programme of former Union Minister and senior lawyer Kapil Sibal. The CM's meeting with Rahul Gandhi fuelled political speculation amid talk of "November Revolution" - possible change of leadership in Karnataka.
Details on Page 7

28 black bucks die at Belagavi zoo

As many as 28 black bucks have died in a span of three days at the Kittur Rani Channamma Mini Zoo here, prompting the forest minister to order a probe. While eight of them died on Thursday, 20 more died on Saturday morning. Forest officials said they suspected that the animals died due to bacterial infection.
Details on Page 3

Seized explosives' blast kills 9 in J&K

A powerful late-night explosion inside Nowgam police station on the outskirts of Srinagar killed nine people and left more than 30 injured, after a stockpile of seized explosives linked to the Faridabad "white-collar" terror module accidentally detonated during forensic handling, officials said on Saturday.
Details on Page 3

Climate: India raps developed countries

India on Saturday sharply criticised developed countries for failing to meet their climate finance obligations, warning that developing nations cannot deliver on their goals without "transparent and reliable" financial support. The Indian representative was speaking at the COP30 dialogue in Brazil.

Vande Mataram revisited: Modi's pitch and the forgotten context

The renewed emphasis on Vande Mataram, overlooking its complex and contested history, risks reviving old ideological and religious divides

NILANJAN MUKHOPADHYAY

Can the restoration of 'wounded pride' or the resurrection of 'usurped tradition' fill empty stomachs, deliver salary slips or ensure timely access to healthcare?

Similar questions — often rooted in historical narratives that bear little relevance to the everyday struggles of the people — arise in the context of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in New Delhi on November 7. Delivered at the year-long commemoration marking 150 years of the national song *Vande Mataram*, the speech was aimed at boosting the morale of his electoral and political constituency.

True to his style of grand symbolism over token gestures, Modi staged yet another full-scale spectacle. This occasion, too, was marked by his familiar promise to restore past glory and reject the humiliation allegedly inflicted through the appeasement of the 'other'. Ahead of his speech, a website was launched, and a commemorative stamp and coin were released marking the occasion.

On this richly designed website, one can listen to various versions of the national song, sequentially starting with Rabindranath Tagore in 1896 at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress, followed by Pandit Omkarnath Thakur's rendering on All India Radio at 6.30 am on August 15, 1947.

More importantly, the website allows citizens to upload their rendition of *Vande Mataram* and record participation in events hosted by various agencies.

This initiative — designed to immerse Indians in a new mythology of the national song as narrated by Modi, rich with both factual and interpretative history — has struck a chord. The website has recorded at least 1.29 crore renditions of the national song.

School students take part in the Vande Mataram Walk organised to celebrate 150 years of the national song, in Kolkata. PTI

The SUNDAY STORY

Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, historian and author of *Vande Mataram: The Biography of a Song*, begins his vivid account by recalling an oft-repeated observation: that some texts – prose and poetry – remain confined to the pages of a book, while others "come out of the pages and enter our life." *Vande Mataram* is one such text.

The only difference now, especially after Modi's latest instigative pitch, is whether the song will continue to live among the people in its current abridged form — unanimously adopted by the framers of the Constitution — or in its entirety, which Modi now seeks to revive, despite the potential to generate more strife. Modi quoted Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi eulogising the song in specific contexts.

However, the prime minister omitted the broader political backdrop in which these statements were made and failed to acknowledge the later remarks by both Tagore and Gandhi — remarks that were notably divergent from their earlier views. Modi cherry-picked only those statements that fostered his politics.

The prime minister also quoted excerpts from those sections of the poem that were unanimously excluded from the official version of the national song by the Constituent Assembly — much like several verses of Tagore's *Jana Gana Mana* are not part of the national anthem. But more insidiously, Modi alleged that unfortunately in 1937, "crucial verses of *Vande Mataram*, a part of its soul, were severed. *Vande Mataram* was broken, it was torn into pieces. This division of *Vande Mataram* also sowed the seeds of division of the country."

Given this, one must revisit events from when Bankim Chandra Chatterjee wrote *Vande Mataram*, in the early 1870s, as a standalone poem, preceding his acclaimed novel *Anandamath*. When the poem was included in the novel in the early 1880s, it came, in the words of historian Tanika Sarkar, as "something of an annunciation, not only of a momentous literary event, but even the idea of a Hindu nation and a new Hindu goddess", later named Bharat Mata.

▸ Vande Mataram, Page 2

Work guarantee fades as MGNREGS falters

As funds shrink, works dry up and technology hurdles rise, India's flagship rural job scheme is struggling to deliver the security it once promised

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

In Raichur's Maski taluk, 51-year-old Bhimavva has seen the transformative impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) on rural lives since its launch in 2005. Over the past two decades, she has worked under the scheme, first as a worker and later as a worksite supervisor. Maski, one of Karnataka's most backward taluks, once saw an exodus of families between February and July, as they boarded overcrowded trains to Hyderabad, Chennai and other cities in search of work. She says 30% to 40% of families have stopped migrating now.

The budget approved by the Union government for labour under MGNREGS has fallen by nearly 48% in the last six years, impacting the average number of workdays per household. In pic, MGNREGS workers desilt a canal in a village in Davangere district. DH PHOTO

INSIGHT

"In the early 2000s, when we migrated to Goa, we faced humiliation and insults from the locals," she recalls.

Bhimavva cultivates jowar and cotton on her three acres land. With the income that she earned from MGNREGS work, she built a cattle shed, which helped double her household income over seven years. This additional source of livelihood has given her a financial stability that seasonal migration never could.

As a supervisor, she has seen her fellow villagers build farm ponds, level fields and improve village roads.

In Belagavi's Lingamath village, MGNREGS worksite supervisor Parashuram Nayak, also called a mate, says that guaranteed employment has enabled rural households to stabilise their incomes, keep children in school, access better healthcare and build durable assets. Various studies on the scheme reinforce these positive outcomes.

"MGNREGS gave people the confidence to stay in their villages," he says.

Introduced in 2005, MGNREGS has reshaped lives and livelihoods across rural India by ensuring up to 100 days of unskilled wage employment to a household each year, within five kilometres of the worker's home. Over the past two decades, it has reduced distress migration, strengthened income security and generated 9.44 crore long-term rural assets nationwide. This includes community assets like desilted lakes, kaccha roads and village drains to personal assets like toilets for Ashraya houses, farm ponds, bunds, approach roads and cattle sheds. Karnataka alone has generated 72.25 lakh assets in 20 years.

However, as MGNREGS faces budget cuts and implementation challenges, several workers and facilitators fear that the gains could begin to slip away. Both government data and village narratives reflect signs of this erosion.

The budget approved by the Union government for labour has fallen from Rs 385.67 crore in 2020–21 to Rs 198.89 crore in 2025–26, a cut of nearly 48%. With less money, the average number of workdays per household in Karnataka has also dropped from 51.52 days in 2020-21 to 50.24 days in 2024-25, falling far short of the Act's promise of 100 days. The national average is 52 days.

"Parliament passed MGNREGS as an Act and the Constitution recognises it under the Directive Principles, giving rural households a legal right to work. Yet, the Union government has been trying to undermine it by cutting funds and imposing conditions that are difficult for unskilled labourers in remote villages to meet," says Abhay Kumar, a Raichur-based social activist.

▸ Rural employment, Page 2

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Sustainable jobs, projects needed

Rural employment from Page 1

The MGNREG Act is demand-driven, any rural household willing to perform unskilled manual labour can request work, which must be provided up to the 100-day annual limit. Yet, only 7.4% of households with job cards have completed the full 100 days nationally. There is no clear data on how many households sought the full 100-day entitlement.

Retired IAS officer Sanjiv Kumar, who headed the State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and has conducted multiple studies on MGNREGS, notes that executing the scheme on the ground is becoming increasingly challenging. "There should be a continuous flow of funds from the Centre to the state and then to the gram panchayats. But this rarely happens on time. In its current format, labourers are often left without work and face delays in wage disbursement, forcing them to leave the scheme and seek alternative employment," he says.

A 2024 study, *Performance Analysis of MGNREGA in Karnataka*, highlighted that the average days of employment provided per household is only half of the programme's prescribed limit. Gunabhagya, a former research fellow at the Karnataka government's Fiscal Policy Institute, who conducted the study, highlights another problem: "In Karnataka, funds are distributed equally among districts. Belagavi, Gadag, Koppal, Raichur, Bagalkot, Yadgir and Bidar districts that have consistently performed well receive the same funding as poorly performing districts such as Bengaluru, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Kalaburagi, Dharwad, Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada," she says. Currently, there is no mechanism to allocate funds based on actual work demand or completion. Urban districts and areas near Bengaluru perform poorly because many labourers migrate to the capital city seeking better pay.

The study also noted that a significant portion of the funds is spent on administrative and material costs rather than on wages.

Another challenge is the lack of preparation of annual work plans by gram panchayats. "There is more demand for work in the arid and drought-prone areas of North Karnataka. However, the shortage of skilled staff at the gram panchayats to prepare work plans and get approvals for these projects results in many beneficiaries not getting work," says Sanjiv Kumar.

Work saturation

At the same time, several villages have exhausted the works available within their gram panchayat limits. Government departments have stopped proposing new works, citing "target completion," even as rural needs remain unfulfilled.

Lingamath gram panchayat, for instance, has completed all permissible works, from lake rejuvenation to farm bunding but has no new projects approved. "Our village has almost completed all the works under rural development schemes. But with erratic payments for the work taken up earlier and no fresh work available, men in the village have resumed migrating to Goa and Maharashtra," says Parashuram. During peak work months, villagers used to earn around Rs 2,700 a week but the window for such work is shrinking rapidly.

Sharada Gopal, who is facilitating MGNREGS work in Belagavi's Khanapur taluk, points out that currently only the Rural Development Department is allocating work. "Other departments have neither recognised nor leveraged the potential of unskilled rural labour. Without innovation in the types of work offered, the potential of MGNREGS will remain limited," she says.

She added that many departments refrain from initiating projects because the Union government does not allocate funds for them. As a result, labourers are forced to migrate, undermining the scheme's purpose.

Vani B P, faculty at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru echoes the need for innovation. "There are opportunities in rural areas where the government could provide employment for labourers for more than 200 days. Beyond long-term engagement, the scheme should offer training so workers can be employed in rural small-scale industries. Work should also be planned to account for gender and age," she said.

While the Rural Development Department is the nodal office, other departments and ministries can undertake more than 266 permissible activities under MGNREGS. However, only a few departments have actively allocated work. She adds that contractors sometimes misuse job cards by deploying machines to complete work.

Gunabhagya stresses that to make the scheme truly successful, work must be allocated to the districts where it is most needed.

Digital hurdles

With an aim to streamline processes and bring transparency, the Union government introduced some technology-based solutions between 2017 and 2022. They include the Aadhaar-based Payment System (ABPS), National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) app and GeoMGNREGA for geo-tagged work verification. But on the ground, they have compounded the problems.

Some workers are unable to link Aadhaar with bank accounts and job cards, while in many cases poor internet connection prevents attendance on NMMS, causing delays in payments.

Swarna Bhat, an activist who has worked extensively for the rights of MGNREGS workers, notes, "Without adequate internet infrastructure, digitally inexperienced workers are forced to navigate advanced technology." She adds that corruption persists and machines are still used unofficially, pushing workers, especially women, out of the scheme.

Women constitute nearly 54% of the MGNREGS workforce. Many people continue to prefer MGNREGS despite other sectors offering higher wages, valuing the financial stability it offers without requiring migration. In 2025–26 (till October), nearly 4.53 crore households in the country received supplementary income with wages ranging from Rs 294 to Rs 357 per day. Women comprised 53.5% of active cardholders. In Karnataka, women's participation is at 54.7%.

"Unlike construction and agriculture, MGNREGS pays men and women equally. Thanks to the scheme, my family has settled here, receiving 100 days of work over the past three years. Now only men migrate for work," said Sushila Vaddar of Bidi village in Belagavi district.

A recent study, *Inclusion of Vulnerable Sections in MGNREGA of Karnataka*, found that nearly 60% of beneficiaries received timely livelihood support when they needed it most. It also highlighted that 99% of women who began receiving equal wages became financially independent and more involved in household decision-making.

However, Ananya Samajdar, Deputy Director-Research at the Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM), Bengaluru, who led the study, points out several loopholes in the auditing of the projects. Social audits ensure accountability, transparency and effective implementation while empowering workers to actively participate in project planning and execution. In Karnataka, grievance meetings, which are part of social auditing, have not been held for many years in several gram panchayats.

Gunabhagya adds that without a social audit, it is difficult to understand whether the assets created have genuinely benefited the community or individuals. "We would not know if the demand for these works originated from the gram panchayats or were simply imposed by the department officials," she says. She points out that MGNREGS must address each village's specific demands and fund allocation should be managed at a micro-level.

"Zilla panchayat CEOs, already handling multiple responsibilities, are tasked with overseeing project implementation and audits. Technology, while intended to enhance transparency, has made the scheme more cumbersome," notes Sanjiv Kumar.

Sustainable projects

Meanwhile, since 2014, the Modi government has signaled a gradual scaling back of the scheme. In 2019, then union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar stated in the Parliament: "The government is not interested in continuing the scheme as MGNREGS' target group is the rural poor, while the Modi government's larger goal is to eliminate poverty altogether."

However, activists point out that despite being in power for over 11 years, the government has not dismantled the scheme.

"MGNREGS has become a vital lifeline for rural households. This was evident during the Covid-19 pandemic when returning migrant labourers got work opportunities under the scheme. No political party can withdraw it easily," says Abhay.

He adds that instead of treating it as a matter of political ego, the government should strengthen the scheme to provide long-term rural employment and promote sustainable projects.

"If the government chooses, it can increase the guarantee to 150 workdays per family. There would still be a shortage of resources to significantly improve living standards in villages," he notes.

Having spent her childhood at brick kilns and construction sites as her parents migrated to cities for work, 32-year-old Dakshayini Vaddar has now settled in her village in Belagavi district after her family secured work under MGNREGS. She puts it simply: "We finally got a life of dignity. We only hope it lasts."

STRAINED safety net

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (**MGNREGA**) was enacted in 2005
- The law operationalised through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (**MGNREGS**) by state governments covers **741 districts** in the country
- It ensures **100 days of employment** in a financial year per family in rural households within five kilometres of their residence
- As many as **266 works** can be taken up under MGNREGS including **150 agriculture** and allied activities, and **58** related to natural resource management

India's current MGNREGS workforce

- **15.48 crore** — Total job cards issued to households
- **8.59 crore** — Active job cards
- **26.58 crore** — Number of workers
- **12.18 crore** — Number of active workers
- **33.81** — Average number of days of employment provided per household as on Nov 15, 2025
- **4.91 lakh** — Number of households that completed 100 days of wage employment in 2025-26
- **58%** — Total women person days
- **36.9%** — SC/ST person days

Work surged during pandemic (Person days generated in cr)

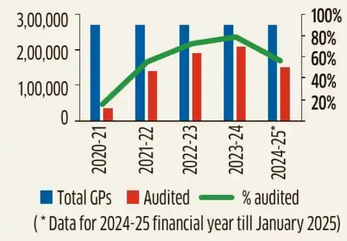
2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25*
265	389	363	296	312	287

(* as on March 31, 2025)

Drop in employment demand

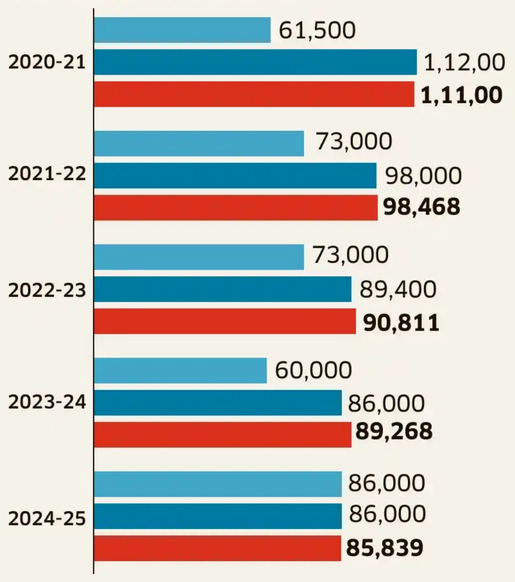
Year	Employment sought (No of households in crore)		Employment offered (No of households in crore)	
	In India	In Karnataka	In India	In Karnataka
2024-25	6.33	0.32	6.31	0.32
2023-24	6.52	0.32	6.51	0.32
2022-23	6.9	0.33	6.89	0.32
2021-22	8.05	0.37	8.01	0.36
2020-21	8.54	0.33	8.53	0.32

Only 56% of GPs conduct social audits



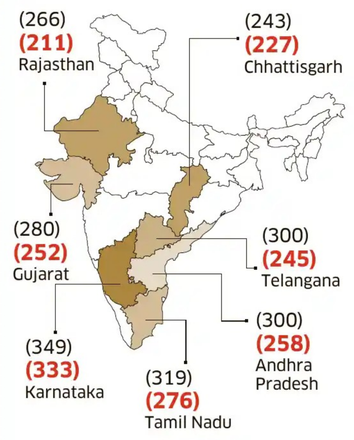
(* Data for 2024-25 financial year till January 2025)

Declining expenditure



(Figures Rs in crore)

Gap between notified daily wage rate and average wage paid



( ) Notified wage rate ( ) Average wage paid

(*Average wage calculated over April 2024 and January 2025)

(Figures in Rs)

Issues plaguing MGNREGS

Poor accountability: In 2024-25 (till Jan 25), only **56%** of India's **2.69 lakh** gram panchayats conducted (at least one) social audit of MGNREGS works, with just **5%** of reported issues addressed and **79%** of financial misappropriation cases resolved

Inadequate wages: In 2024-25 (as of Jan 25), MGNREGS workers in **11 states** and UTs received wages below the notified rates, which the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2024) deemed inadequate amid rising living costs

Unpaid delay compensation: MGNREGS wages must be paid weekly within 15 days, with **0.05%** daily compensation for delays. As of Jan 2025, only **26%** of the delayed compensation for 2024-25 had been paid

Delay in allowance payment: Between 2019-20 and 2023-24, less than **10%** of the due daily unemployment allowance was paid when work wasn't provided within 15 days

Creation of fake job cards: Between 2022-25, nearly **11.08 lakh** job cards were deleted citing they were fake

Complaints unaddressed: In 2025-26, the MGNREGA Ombudsman received **2,747 complaints**, disposed of 1,738, took disciplinary action in 14 cases, and recommended **Rs 2.69 crore** for recovery, of which Rs 48.3 lakh was recovered

Technical gaps

- Although ABPS became mandatory in January 2024, as of April 2025, 27.5% of all workers and 1.5% of active workers remain ineligible, causing payment issues
- Aadhaar-job card mismatches have left many workers unpaid
- Incorrect Aadhaar-bank links has caused payments to go to the wrong recipients
- Workers must upload geo-tagged photos via National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) for attendance, but many workers do not have smartphones or tech skills
- Frequent app crashes and server errors are leaving attendance incomplete, delaying payments

Source: PIB, PRS India, Finshots, MGNRGA web portal

COMPILED BY **DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI** DH GRAPHIC: **GURU PRASATH R**

'State looking at diversifying MGNREGS works'

In conversation with *DH*'s **Pavan Kumar H**, Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister **Priyank Kharge** stresses the need for coordinated efforts across departments, diversification of works and simplified technology use to ensure effective implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Excerpts:

The MGNREGS has completed 20 years of implementation. How do you view its journey so far?

There is ample evidence that MGNREGS has benefited hundreds of rural families over the years. In Karnataka, it has played a significant role in preventing distress migration. While there were initial loopholes and instances of corruption, we have since addressed these issues and strengthened the system. Last year, Karnataka generated nearly three crore person-days of work for 47 lakh beneficiaries and took up 16.7 lakh works. Without MGNREGS, many of these families would have been forced to migrate. In many ways, it has deepened decentralised governance, as the demand for work now comes directly from villagers and panchayats.

However, it is unfortunate that the union government continues to view the scheme through a political lens. The reality is that the current government is itself benefiting from MGNREGS as it continues to provide crucial employment in rural areas. Had adequate jobs been created in both urban and rural areas, the reliance on MGNREGS would naturally have reduced. Over the past decade, due to the Modi government's shortsighted approach, MGNREGS has been unable to achieve its full potential. Tightening funds and limiting person-days is not helping rural areas.

Priyank Kharge

A majority of beneficiaries and activists blame complex technology for the poor response to MGNREGS. How do you view this?

Technology is not a hindrance; in fact, it has improved accountability and transparency. Introduction of geo-fencing and National Mobile Monitoring System has helped minimise corruption. In some parts of Karnataka, beneficiaries do face difficulties in logging in. Technology has not completely eliminated corruption as issues like double attendance still persist. The central government has introduced certain conditions and mandates that have created hardship for beneficiaries. Karnataka is working to streamline these processes, improve the quality of work and simplify the use of technology.

Why are many departments not providing jobs under MGNREGS despite provisions allowing them to do so?

One of the core objectives of MGNREGS is to create community and individual assets in villages but many departments are not converging their efforts. Many of the departments do not have separate fund allocation to take up the work under the scheme. For example, if a PHC needs to be built in a village, the health department is not utilising MGNREGS for it. Also, the central government has imposed some restrictions on the types of work that a department can take up.

In Karnataka, we are looking at diversifying MGNREGS works to cover solid waste management, grey water treatment etc. However, getting central approval for this is challenging.

Have your say

To express your opinion, e-mail us at: insight@deccanherald.co.in

Vande Mataram, from Page 1

Vande Mataram debate risks rekindling old fault lines

When this Bengali novel was published and circulated in many languages, the concept of a nation as motherland — let alone as a Hindu goddess — was not widely seen. However, in a few decades, the imagination of the nation as a mother became universal, personified as 'Bharat Mata'. This vision gained a visual form through the work of artist Abanindranath Tagore, who titled the iconic depiction Banga Mata (Mother Bengal).

Rabindranath Tagore first sang *Vande Mataram* at the 1896 Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. It soon emerged as the powerful symbol of protest and a political slogan, particularly during the Swadeshi agitation and the movement against the 1905 Bengal Partition. *Vande Mataram* was also co-opted by the nationalists.

However, the idolatry in *Vande Mataram* was problematic for a large section of nationalists, largely because of the novel's imagery and rhetoric. From 1908 onwards, the Muslim League, particularly Mohammed Ali Jinnah, objected to *Vande Mataram* being used as the movement's battle cry. The Hindu Mahasabha was against those who opposed the song, and formally promoted *Vande Mataram* and its use in nationalist programmes, although it chose to stay away from anti-colonial agitations and protests. In October 1937, the Hindu Mahasabha organised a Vande Mataram Day in Pune and Bombay (and later in other cities) to celebrate the song.

Interestingly, the controversy raged even as many Indians, including senior nationalist leaders, failed to grasp *Vande Mataram*'s true meaning and contended themselves with just the gist of the complex linguistic construction: '*Vande Mataram! Sujalam, suphalam, malayaja shitalam, Shasyashyamalam, Mataram...*' Only Jawaharlal Nehru candidly admitted that he could 'not understand it without the help of a dictionary.'

PM Modi at an event marking 150 years of Vande Mataram in New Delhi.
@NARENDRAMODI/YT VIA PTI

More than the meaning of individual words, Nehru was troubled by the overall thrust of the song and the questions over its continued use in Congress programmes. Sitting on the horns of this dilemma, he turned to Rabindranath Tagore, who first introduced *Vande Mataram* to the people four decades earlier. In a letter to Rabindranath Tagore, Nehru wrote that 'it does seem that the background is likely to irritate the Muslims.'

Eventually, all but the first two stanzas were dropped from the version sung at Congress sessions and wherever *Vande Mataram* was evoked. Importantly, this decision was taken by a Congress committee acting on Tagore's advice.

Over time, even Gandhi recognised *Vande Mataram*'s capacity to trigger communal discord. In the July 1939 issue of *Harijan*, he wrote: "No matter what its source was, and how and when it was composed, had become a most powerful battle cry among Hindus and Musalmans of Bengal during the Partition days. It was an anti-imperialist cry...and when I first heard it sung it had enthralled me. I associated the purest national spirit with it... never occurred that it was a Hindu song or meant only for Hindus. Unfortunately, now we have fallen on evil days..."

Gandhi was more explicit in 1947 when he wrote, "that was no religious cry...It was a pure political cry. It should never be a chant to insult the Muslims."

From 1937 onwards, Congress leaders broadly agreed that *Vande Mataram*, in isolation, was a religio-patriotic chant. But, when placed within *Anandamath*, the background was certainly offensive towards Muslims.

This explains why the Constituent Assembly decided to continue with the Congress' decision to retain only the first two stanzas of the song. Importantly, it was left to Rajendra Prasad to declare on the floor of the House that only the first two stanzas of *Vande Mataram* would be recognised as the national song and *Jana Gana Mana* would be the national anthem.

With his speech on November 7, Modi launched a campaign to reverse this agreement and re-introduce *Vande Mataram* in its entirety. This move is likely to provoke discomfort among sections of the Muslims and may be used to portray those who oppose this move as anti-national. Unable to bring about fundamental and lasting change, and betterment in the lives of ordinary people, this is a tried and tested tactic to ensure people remain distracted and keep contesting among themselves over issues of identity and symbols.

(The writer is a Delhi-NCR-based journalist and author. His latest book is The Demolition, The Verdict and The Temple: The Definitive Book on the Ram Mandir)

Seized explosives go off accidentally in Srinagar, 9 dead

30 injured in police station blast; no terror angle, say cops

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

A powerful late-night explosion inside Nowgam police station on the outskirts of Srinagar killed nine people and left more than 30 injured, after a stockpile of seized explosives linked to the Faridabad "white-collar" terror module accidentally detonated during forensic handling, officials said on Saturday.

The blast, which tore through the police compound around 11.20 pm, was so intense that body parts were flung 100–300 metres away into surrounding residential areas, and the station building was "very severely damaged", according to rescue officials and CCTV footage reviewed by investigators.

Jammu & Kashmir police chief Nalin Prabhat ruled out a terror angle, calling the explosion "tragic" that occurred when a forensic team was sampling "volatile, sensitive explosive material" stored in the police station's open yard.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, too, said the detonation resulted from the unstable nature of the explosives, dismissing speculation of foul play and stressing the material had been kept following standard procedures for seized substances.

Among the nine killed were three FSL personnel, two revenue officials including naib tahsildar, a police photographer, an SIA officer and a local tailor who happened to be in the station on official work at the time.

At least 32 others sustained injuries of varying severity, most of them policemen and forensic staff, who were rushed to hospitals in Srinagar.

▸ Explosives, Page 7

The police station which was destroyed after an explosion in Srinagar, on Saturday. REUTERS

1 HOW THE CASE UNRAVELLED

- Threat posters in Nowgam trigger intel sweep
- Faridabad raid yields mixed-batch explosive stock
- Unstable material sorted for sampling – hours before the blast.

2 BIG QUESTIONS FOR THE INQUIRY

- Was volatility misjudged?
- Why open-yard storage?
- Was a cool-down period skipped?
- Were safety caps exceeded?
- Was protective gear adequate?

3 IMPACT

- Dozens of homes report structural cracks.
- Residents demand no explosive storage near homes.

2 docs among three detained

The Delhi police detained three people, including two doctors from Haryana's Al-Falah University, in connection with the blast near the Red Fort, even as two separate FIRs were registered against the institution over alleged irregularities.
Details on Page 8

'Shaheen planned to flee'

Doctor Shaheen Sayeed, who was arrested over suspicion of being a member of the 'white terror module', suspected to be behind the Delhi blast, was in touch with a Pakistani military doctor and planned to flee abroad, sources said.
Details on Page 8

B'luru to get 66 smart, multi-level parking hubs

Facilities in key spots to ease traffic congestion

DH EXCLUSIVE

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major shift in the approach to the city's parking problem, the Bengaluru traffic police have identified 66 spots for building multi-level car parking facilities (MLCP) mainly in high footfall and commercial hubs. The sites are planned on metro parking plots, nearby junctions and roadside government land.

The smart MLCP is automated or semi-automated technology, with lifts, hydraulic platforms or robotic systems to stack vehicles vertically and horizontally. Each system houses 485 cars, G+9 floor layout with seven lifts.

Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao confirmed to *DH* that this system eliminates space required for circulation ramps and driveways, maximising capacity in a small footprint. Drivers simply leave their vehicle at an entry bay, and the automated system uses sensors and computerised tracking to store and retrieve it, reducing retrieval time and manual intervention.

"The city is grappling with major parking issues and this system is among the many solutions mooted," he said.

The estimated cost will be borne by the GBA, and the entire project will be executed under a public-private partnership (PPP) model. The initiative comes at a time when the police plan to tow away wrongly parked vehicles.

A recent letter from the Bengaluru traffic police to the GBA Chief Commissioner detailed the need for a structured parking solution. It highlighted that despite declaring 1,194 roads as 'no-parking' zones, lack of designated parking forces commuters to violate rules, thereby choking arterial roads.

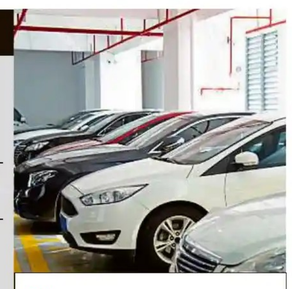
Joint commissioner of police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy told *DH* that the system, successfully implemented in Hyderabad, requires immediate intervention in Bengaluru.

BENEFITS

1. **Reduced search time:** real-time information on available parking spaces helps drivers quickly find a spot
2. **Convenient payments:** digital payment options
3. **Increased safety:** smart parking systems include features like CCTV cameras and licence plate recognition

Key issues that prompted this move

1. Rapid increase in the number of vehicles, leading to a shortage of parking space
2. Vehicles parked on pavements, causing problems for pedestrians
3. Underutilisation of existing multi-storey car parking



Some proposed locations

KSR Majestic, Satellite bus stand, Dr B R Ambedkar Car Parking, Tin Factory bus stand, Vijayanagar TTMC, Banashankari TTMC, Jayanagar bus stand, Mantri Square, Malleswaram, Electronics City, Silk Board Junction

Post massive win, NDA leaders meet Nitish over govt formation

PATNA, PTI: With a landslide victory in Bihar assembly polls placing the NDA firmly in the saddle, leaders of the alliance on Saturday appeared to have got down to the brass tacks of forming a new government in the state.

Coalition partners made a beeline at 1, Anne Marg, the official residence of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the longest-serving incumbent, who heads the JD(U).

Notable visitors included Union minister Chirag Paswan, who is excited at the prospects of his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) sharing power in the state as well.

"I have congratulated Nitish Kumar ji on the victory. The NDA's win put paid to the Opposition's false narrative that there has been a rift between the two of us. Even during the campaign, the CM canvassed in seats where our candidate was contesting. We reciprocated the gesture and supported the JD(U) candidate in Alauli, which has been our home turf," Paswan told reporters.

Paswan ducked queries as to whether the LJP(RV) was hoping to have one of its MLAs as the deputy CM, saying "CM and his deputy are decided jointly by all the legislators".

He, however, added "personally, I feel that Nitish Kumar ji should continue to lead the government".

The JD(U) president, who would turn 75 in a few months from now, has not been enjoying robust health for some time.

The JD(U), with 85 seats, has emerged as the second largest party after the BJP, which has a tally of 89.

LJP (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan with Bihar CM Nitish Kumar in Patna. PTI

Reeling from drubbing, Cong to collect Bihar poll data

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress top leadership on Saturday held a quick review of the Bihar poll shellacking and decided to rope in I.N.D.I.A partners to collectively look into data and reasons for the "unbelievable" debacle.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, General Secretary KC Venugopal were among the Congress leaders who drove to party president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence to discuss the dismal performance in Bihar, where it won just six seats.

Sources said senior leaders were surprised by the NDA winning 202 seats out of 243 and felt that the election was "stolen" and were not convinced with the role of the Election Commission.

Kharge and Rahul spoke to RJD's Tejashwi Yadav as well as CPI(ML)L General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya on the Bihar outcome, with sources saying the leaders were of the view that there is "something amiss" in the results. Efforts are on to collect Form 17C, which has details of voting, from all booths for analysis.

Sources said leaders were of the view that a party winning 90% of the seats is "extremely rare" and such a situation did not exist in Bihar. They said that even during 1984, the Congress did not get a 90% strike rate.

While Congress and its Bihar partners suspect "vote chori", NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar struck a discordant note, dismissing suggestions of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) having an impact on the results.

▸ Congress, Page 7

MVA in crisis in Maha

A day after the I.N.D.I.A bloc suffered a humiliating defeat in Bihar, the Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra seemed to be in crisis, with Congress deciding to go alone in the Mumbai civic polls. Page 8

Lalu's daughter quits politics

After the RJD was drubbed in the Bihar assembly polls, party president Lalu Prasad's daughter Rohini Acharya on Saturday announced that she was "quitting politics" and severed ties with the family. Page 8

"This result was unbelievable not just for the Congress, but for the people of Bihar and our alliance partners too. A 90% strike rate for a party has never happened. We are doing a thorough analysis, collecting data from across Bihar. Within one or two weeks, we will come out with concrete proof"
-KC VENUGOPAL, Cong Gen Secy

Some states may feel the heat: Andhra CM Naidu

VISAKHAPATNAM, DHNS: Some states may feel the heat but that is natural in a competitive environment and essential for the country's economic growth, said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday, as he wrapped up the investors' summit in Visakhapatnam.

The CM was responding to a question on industries moving to Andhra from other states, like in the case of South Korean company Hwaseung deciding to establish its $150 million shoe manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh instead of Tamil Nadu.

Naidu said that cooperative federalism thrives when states challenge one another.
Details on Page 8

Probe on as 28 black bucks die at Belagavi zoo

RAJU GAVALI
BELAGAVI, DHNS

As many as 28 black bucks have died in a span of three days at the Kittur Rani Channamma Mini Zoo here, prompting the forest minister to order a probe. While eight of them died on Thursday, 20 more died on Saturday morning.

Forest officials said they suspected that the animals, a protected deer species, died due to bacterial infection but the exact cause would be known only after laboratory test reports of viscera samples were received.

The mini zoo, located in Bhutaramanhatti village, had 38 black bucks which had been brought from the Binkadakatti Zoo in Gadag. They were aged between four to six years.

When the eight deer died on Thursday, officials had sent their viscera samples to the Wild Animal Diseases Diagnostic Lab at Bannerghatta. As a precaution, the officials kept the rest of the group under watch and gave treatment to them as per the guidance of experts from Bannerghatta and Mysuru. However, 20 more black bucks died on Saturday.

Assistant Conservator of Forests and Zoo Deputy Director Nagaraj Balehosur told *DH* that bacterial infection is suspected to be the reason for the deaths. He added that carcasses of three deer that died on Saturday had been preserved for tests.

"Such infection has not been noticed at any zoo in the state, we have come across it for the first time," he said.

▸ Black bucks, Page 7

Carcasses of the black bucks that died at Belagavi zoo on Saturday. DH PHOTO

FIGHTING FIRE

Smoke billows from a burning vehicle as firemen try to extinguish the fire in Kalaburagi on Saturday. DH PHOTO

B'luru's 'hero stones' face urban onslaught

DH SPECIAL

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

The dire state of hero stones found in Kurudu Sonnenahalli near Medahalli (off the Hoskote highway) Bengaluru.

Relics of the city's rich and ancient past are threatened as Ganga-era veeragallus (hero stones) dating back to the 10th century face neglect and destruction due to rapid urbanisation and construction activities.

Among the stones needing urgent attention is the Sambayya hero stone off the Hoskote highway.

Historian Shashidhara H G, who has been fighting to save hero stones in and around the city, has highlighted the dire situation in Medahalli, within the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) limits, where historically significant veeragallus are unprotected.

"We have not learnt from the incident where the top of a hero stone was destroyed when it was burnt with garbage in KR Puram," he told *DH*.

Shashidhara lamented the lack of action despite six years of appeals to various authorities, including the State Archaeology Department and GBA. The threat is compounded by mushrooming of large apartment complexes around the area, which, combined with rapid growth, is destroying these fragments of Bengaluru's history. Hero stones are also found in abundance and are similarly unprotected around Devanahalli too, he added.

He suggested that authorities, like the Karnataka Archaeological Department, take immediate steps. He proposed shifting the stones to a museum, or creating a park dedicated to hero stones like the Arabhikottanur hero stones park in Kolar.

▸ Hero stones, Page 7

Akhlaq lynching: UP govt moves to withdraw charges

NOIDA, PTI: The Uttar Pradesh government has moved to withdraw charges against all those accused in the 2015 mob lynching of Mohammad Akhlaq in Greater Noida's Dadri, a case that had sparked nationwide outrage.

Additional District Government Counsel Bhag Singh Bhati told PTI on Saturday that the state has sent a formal request for the withdrawal of prosecution.

"A letter has been received from the government regarding the withdrawal of the case against all the accused in the Akhlaq murder case. The application has been submitted before the Surajpur court and will be heard on December 12," Bhati said.

Advocate Yusuf Saifi, who represents the Akhlaq family, said he had not yet seen the official documents.

Trump scraps tariffs on beef, coffee, tropical fruit

WASHINGTON, AP: President Donald Trump announced Friday that he was scrapping US tariffs on beef, coffee, tropical fruits and a broad swath of other commodities — a dramatic move that comes amid mounting pressure on his administration to better combat high consumer prices.

Trump has built his second term around imposing steep levies on goods imported into the US in hopes of encouraging domestic production and lifting the US economy.

His abrupt retreat from his signature tariff policy on so many staples key to the American diet is significant, and it comes after voters in off-year elections this month cited economic concerns as their top issue, resulting in big wins for Democrats.
Details on Page 9

BIRDERS THRILLED

Himalayan songbird makes a rare visit to Bengaluru

DH SPECIAL

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS

A Himalayan rubythroat (*Calliope pectoralis*) has been spotted at Hoskote Lake, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, marking the first recorded sighting of the species in south India and attracting birders from across the city.

The small songbird is identified by its bright ruby coloured throat, a black patch extending to its breast and a white belly with patterned brown upperparts.

Prashant Sharma, a birder, spotted it first along with fellow birding enthusiast Nirmalya Sinha. Describing the experience as "unexpected", Prashant says it is a significant sighting as the bird is typically found in the Himalayan ranges and rarely ventures this far south.

"There are no prior records, but that doesn't mean they've never ventured this far south — it was just never spotted by anyone," says Prashant.

These occurrences, termed 'vagrant', are not ecologically concerning due to the low number of individuals, experts say.

Ecologist and ornithologist Krishna M B uses the analogy of medicine dosage to explain that a "significant impact requires a higher concentration of individuals". "It has to be observed if the species is going to be found here regularly and if it will colonise. Until then, it is not unusual. Birds, like humans, wander and explore, and because they can fly, they can cover greater distances," he says, citing the example of a Malabar whistling thrush — mostly found in the Western Ghats — that spent a week at Hebbal lake in Bengaluru.

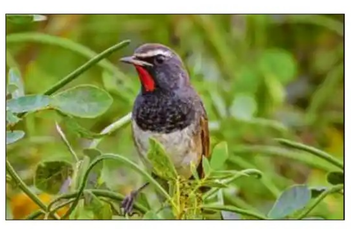
Ashwin Viswanathan, a scientist who works with the Nature Conservation Foundation, suggests that unusual weather or winds could explain the rubythroat's visit to Bengaluru. "Climate change could be an important threat for this bird and other high-elevation breeding birds," he says.

Ashwin says the bird breeds during the summer in the high elevations of the Himalayas. "It migrates to the Himalayan foothills and some parts of northern India in the winter. During summer, its habitat is alpine shrubbery and in winter, its preferred habitat is bushes and forest edges," he observes.

The Himalayan rubythroat is shy and prefers to stay hidden within bushes, making it difficult to spot.

"The bird spotted in Bengaluru was a male with a full breeding plumage. It stayed hidden the entire time, darting between clumps of grass and emerging briefly allowing only a few seconds of sighting," Prashant shares. It has been spotted for three days since Thursday. The species was also spotted in Maharashtra a few years ago.

▸ Rubythroat, Page 5



The Himalayan rubythroat spotted in Bengaluru. PHOTO PRASHANT SHARMA

Sri Ramana Maharshi Educational Trust (R.)
SHRIDEVI PU COLLEGE
Recognised by Govt. of Karnataka
Sira Road, Tumkur - 572106. Karnataka.

FACULTY REQUIREMENT

Physics | Chemistry | Mathematics | Botany | Zoology

Qualification: M.Sc, M.Tech or B.Tech from IIT / NIT

ELIGIBILITY:

Minimum 5 years of Teaching experience in NEET, JEE MAINS and advanced CET training

Selection based on written test and Demonstration

With Attractive Salary.

Applicants may send updated Profile to:
Email:
director@shridevieducation.org

'A WELCOME FIRST STEP' Activists urge govt to fix gaps in draft law

Domestic workers' bill: Sweeping reform or eyewash?

KORAH ABRAHAM
BENGALURU, DHNS

When 42-year-old Ganga, a domestic worker in apartment complexes and houses in and around Kathalipalya, was asked whether she heard about the Karnataka Domestic Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, she looked puzzled.

"What bill?," she asked. Ganga had not heard of it. Even if she did, she would not have understood it. The draft law, available only in English, was published quietly on the labour department website in October, without a Kannada version.

Even as the draft bill is seen as a welcome step towards providing domestic workers dignity, unions say it may not serve its purpose due to several gaps in the draft law.

For a sector which employs lakhs of women who keep Bengaluru's homes and apartments running, the lack of awareness about a historic law speaks volumes. Activists say the draft law, meant to secure workers' rights, hasn't even reached them.

The Karnataka Domestic Workers Rights Union (DWRU), closely involved in consultations over the bill, has criticised the government for releasing the Bill only in English.

"When we tried to upload feedback on the department's website, the option was blocked," said Geeta Mohan, joint secretary of DWRU.

"They asked us to send an email to the additional labour commissioner instead. How can workers participate in a process like this?"

The union has demanded that the draft be immediately translated into Kannada and that the consultation period be extended by another 30 days. It was supposed to end on November 14.

"This law affects some of the most marginalised women. If the consultation isn't accessible, it fails the basic test of inclusion," Geeta said.

At the heart of the proposed law is a provision which calls for a new registration system for domestic workers, employers and service providers.

But labour activists say the bill does not make it clear who is responsible for registering workers - a gap which they say could stop them from getting their rights.

"The obligation to register must rest with employer, not worker," says Geeta.

"The Bill's requirement that workers renew their registration every three years to be able to avail social benefits is onerous and will work against their interests," said the union.

Instead, it has suggested that employers should update the status of workers periodically and ensure their registration through an app-based system.

G Manjunath, additional labour commissioner, told *DH* that registration was mandatory in the Seva Sindhu portal for both employer and worker.

"It is mandatory for both parties to register. Employer should help the workers in the process," said Manjunath.

While the bill has promised 'decent working conditions,' it fails to define what all comes under this. Activists fear this vagueness could act as a major loophole against workers.

A file photo of domestic workers at a meeting to demand their rights in Bengaluru. Unions want the draft bill translated to Kannada from English, so that it easily reaches those it is meant for. While the bill has promised 'decent working conditions,' it fails to define them, they say.

"It must clearly mention rights like eight-hour workday, weekly holidays, minimum wages, annual increments and safe working spaces," the union said.

According to activist and lawyer Vinay Sreenivasa, one of the most common issues that domestic workers face is arbitrary terminations, which the bill makes no mention of.

"If workers ask for rights or benefits, employers ask them not to come to work from next day," says Vinay, adding that the bill is definitely a good start, but cannot be implemented in its current form.

"Will the new law ensure that we get a steady monthly salary?," asks 36-year-old Deepa Kumari, a domestic worker in Jeevanahalli.

Deepa told *DH* that while she works only two or three hours in a single household, she works over 12 hours a day, in three to four houses.

"We don't have a choice because we do not know how long we can work in one house. Some days they tell us not to come and the salary for those days is deducted," she says.

'Enforcement the key'

Enforcement is the key, says lawyer and All India Central Council of Trade Unions leader Maitreyi Krishnan.

"Workers should be informed about the rights available to them. For this, the government must undertake a large-scale campaign - by making officials go to different areas and educate employers and workers," says Maitreyi.

She emphasises on the need for involvement by residence welfare associations in conducting awareness campaigns under the supervision of labour inspectors.

Suggestions will be considered: Officer

Additional labour commissioner Manjunath says the department will go through all suggestions received over the last month ever since the bill was placed in public domain.

"We will look into the suggestions and incorporate whatever is necessary and finalise the draft, so that the bill can be tabled in the winter session of the legislature in Belagavi," he said.

Bizman duped of Rs 50L for 'Rs 5-cr grants from CM's funds for works'

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A city-based businessman has filed a cheating complaint after being duped of Rs 50 lakh by two men, who promised to secure grants under the chief minister's special funds.

The complaint, filed at Annapoorneshwari Nagar police station, said the accused — identified as Harish and Sandeep — took 50 lakh as "commission" after assuring the victim that they would secure 5 crore in grants for civic works in his locality.

A senior police officer said that the victim is a resident of Nagarabhavi. He had met Harish in 2024. Harish allegedly claimed that he had close access to senior government officials through Sandeep, who works as a personal assistant to the principal secretary. They demanded 10% commission to process and release the grants. An FIR has been registered against Harish and Sandeep, who are currently absconding.

Further inquiry revealed that the accused had used a hired vehicle fitted with fake number plates to mislead him.

Speaking to *DH*, the victim said Harish — who introduced himself as an active RSS worker and BJP president of Kottigepalya Ward — befriended him in October last year while organising local events.

"I had seen his posters in the area for a few months. He visited my house and convinced me that he could secure the CM's special funds for development works in our area. Later Sandeep joined in and they shared some documents and convinced me of the grants. I first paid Rs 25 lakh as advance amount at his residence. A few days later, Harish and Sandeep arrived in what appeared to be a government vehicle and collected the remaining amount at Wilson Garden bus depot."

Soon, Harish began avoiding him. Suspicious, he approached the RDPR officials to verify the documents and was shocked to learn that the documents were fake.

BWSSB employees' assn flays move to outsource recruitment

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BWSSB employees are up in arms against the government agency over a proposal to recruit 60 assistant and junior engineers on an outsourcing basis.

The decision, they say, could undermine accountability as temporary staff do not come under the cadre and recruitment rules.

In its letter to BWSSB Chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar, the employees association condemned the proposal to hire a private agency for providing engineers on an ad hoc basis. "Never in the history of BWSSB has such a decision been taken. This will lead to a lot of administrative and technical issues thereby destroying the reputation of the institution that was built over many decades," association president Govindaraju A said. As per the proposal, the BWSSB plans to temporarily recruit 60 engineers for Rs 30,000 a month.

"The engineers in BWSSB have the authority to make entries in the measurement book, take important decisions on clearing bills to the contractors and also engage in recovery of revenue. These are critical works. By handing over these responsibilities to outsourced men, how will the water board ensure accountability," the association said, accusing the water board for steps to privatise the institution.

The sanctioned staff stretch of BWSSB is 4,606. As of now, there are only 1,702 regular employees. "Instead of hiring engineers temporarily, the water board should put pressure on the government to appoint regular engineers," the association stated.

The association also recalled a similar attempt made in 2008 when SSLC passed students were hired for reading water metres in east zone but eventually withdrew the decision.

BWSSB officials did not respond to phone calls.

Puppet-making workshop

BENGALURU, DHNS: Dhaatu Puppet Musuem will organise a puppet-making workshop on Sunday at 10.30 am, 12 pm and 2.30 pm. It will also hold a puppet show of special string puppets at 4 pm, at Mandala Cultural Centre, Next to Silk Institute metro station, Kanankapura Road.

Mass cleanliness drive held in Central, East City Corpn limits

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mass cleaning drives were held in Bengaluru East City Corporation and Bengaluru Central City Corporation on Saturday.

In the East corporation, the drive was held across Mahadevapura and KR Puram.

Close to 55 tonnes of silt, construction and demolition waste, and other waste were cleared. The drive also ensured that old household items were removed and weeds were cleared.

"Approximately 3,600 metres of dangling cables were removed and 82 advertisement banners and flexes were cleared. Roadside drains and medians were cleaned and 100 kg of single-use plastic was seized," the East City corporation said in a statement.

In the Central City corporation, areas in six assembly constituencies, spanning close to 27 km, were covered under the drive. Overall, 68 loads of waste were collected and 41 blackspots were cleaned up.

Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan, who observed that a private transport company bus parked on the roadside was obstructing the cleanliness drive and was creating problems for Pourakarmikas to do regular cleaning, instructed the officials to impose a fine on the transport company and to get the bus moved from the roadside.

Rowdy flees with cab, arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hennur police on Friday arrested a 39-year-old habitual offender for brutally attacking a cab driver and fleeing with his taxi in Hegde Nagar.

The arrested is Mansoor Dhoon, a resident of Queen's Road. He was tracked down based on technical evidence.

A senior police officer said that on Thursday night, Mansoor had hired a cab from Mysuru and offered the driver Pradeep V K, Rs 3,500 for the trip. After reaching Shivajinagar, he asked the driver to proceed to Hegde Nagar, claiming he needed to collect money from his sister.

Around 11.30 pm, after reaching an isolated spot Mansoor allegedly attacked Pradeep with a knife brutally and snatched his mobile phone, before fleeing in the cab. The injured Pradeep managed to seek help from passers-by and was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Soon after recovering he filed a case and police tracked down Mansoor, a habitual offender with a history of drug peddling. Cases had been booked against him in nine police stations across the city.

The police recovered the cab which was abandoned near Victoria Hospital.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice No.: BE-29-2025-26-OT-14
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Rewiring of staff quarters on age cum condition basis over KSR Bengaluru (SBC) Division - Phase-I.	Rs. 8,82,97,813.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 05.12.2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General/Bengaluru
PUB/653/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: B/TRD.2025-26/26 Dated 10.11.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Conversion of Tramway OHE to conventional at KSR Bengaluru (SBC) yard	Rs. 1,13,21,950.32

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 01.12.2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution/Bengaluru
PUB/643/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PROVISION OF HIGH VOLTAGE COMPOSITE INSULATION COATING
E-Tender Notice No.: AP-EL-TRD-13-25-26. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Sl. No.1; Tender No.:** AP-EL-TRD-13-25-26; **Name of work:** Provision of high voltage composite insulation coating at Bridge No. 73 under Section Chapaguri - Mathabhanga, Bridge No. 174 under Section Agomoni-Golakganj Jn. and Bridge No. 29 under Section Gulma-Sivok suitable for 25kV OHE at restricted electrical clearance at OLS location (Phase-I). **Advertised Tender Value:** ₹7,05,87,650/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹5,02,900/-; E-tender will be **closed** at 15:00 hrs. on 12-12-2025 and will be opened on 12-12-2025 at 15:30 hrs. at DRM/Elect. (TRD)/Alipurduar Jn.'s office. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. DEE/TRD, OP & GS, Alipurduar Jn.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Krishi Mela Closing Ceremony: Award Presentation: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, D K Shivakumar, N Chaluvarayaswamy, Krishna Byre Gowda: Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK); 10 am

'Santhavani' - Films, Books, Lectures, Music, Dance, Drama and Seminars: Talk on 'Naatha Parampare' by Dharanidhar Nath, 'Saints of Odisha' by Niranjan Sahoo, 'Haridasa Parampara-1 by Girijapati N M and 'Vachana Parampara' Dance Drama: Sandhya Udupa, Pratibha Ramaswamy: Khincha Auditorium, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; 10 am onwards

Karnataka Rajyotsava celebration: Dundiraj, to speak on "Challenges of Kannada Learning," Shivarama Karantha Vedike, Taralabalu mini auditorium, Taralabalu Kendra, RT Nagar; 4 pm

CULTURAL

Udayaraga in garden: Shehnai recital by Basappa Bhajantri: Cubbon Park; 7 am

Classical Music Festival on the occasion of 102nd birth anniversary of KV Narayanaswamy: Music concerts: Rama Narayana Gurukulam, Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt, Malleswaram, 9 am

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky
TEMPERATURE

Maximum	27.7°C
Minimum	17.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 4:30 pm)	61%
Sunset (Nov 16)	5:50 pm
Sunrise (Nov 17)	6:18 am
Moonrise	2:16 am
Moonset	2:37 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

KBG inaugurates inter-apartment sports festival

BENGALURU, DHNS

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Saturday inaugurated third annual Inter-Apartment Sports Fest–2025 across various localities of the Byatarayanapura constituency jointly organised by the Congress team, Youth Congress workers, and the KBG Volunteers Association.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that there are many apartments across the Byatarayanapura constituency and residents in these areas usually have very limited interaction with people from surrounding neighbourhoods. He said that events such as sports fest were being organised to foster harmony among residents them and to raise awareness about the sports facilities established by the government for apartment residents in Bengaluru.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda with teams participating in the third annual Inter-Apartment Sports Fest–2025, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Organiser Meenakshi Sheshadri said that under the leadership of Krishna Byre Gowda, sports competitions were being held across eight zones. A total 3,600 enthusiasts are taking part in 14 different sports, she said. She noted that this is the first-of-its-kind sports event organised exclusively for apartment residents in Bengaluru.

The league-level matches concluded on Saturday, and the semifinals and finals will be held on Sunday. After a music program at 4 PM, attractive trophies, cash prizes, and certificates for all participants will be distributed, she added.

SOUTH INDIAN Bank 15.11.2025
GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
Date:
CANTONMENT BRANCH
#10, Infantry Road Cross, B. M. Complex, Opp. Blue Cross Chambers, **Shivajinagar, Bangalore 560 001. Ph: 080-46005898**
Email: br0009@sib.co.in, www.southindianbank.com

The Gold Articles pledged under the following number/s at Bangalore Cantonment Branch, which are not cleared by payment of Bank's dues even after serving registered notice and Gold articles pledged under same number against which registered notices have been served/returned undelivered, will be sold in **public auction or private treaty on as is where is condition** at Branch premises as under or any other convenient date and time without further notice at the risk and responsibility of the pawners, if they are not released from the branch.
Auction of Gold ornaments pledged under the following accounts will be held at Branch premises on 28.11.2025 at 4.00 P.M Branch : Cantonment, Shivajinagar, Bangalore.

Sl. No.	Name	A/c No.	Gross Wt (in gms)
1	SYED IMDAD UR RAHMAN M	0009553000065849	87.4
2	AFREED KHAN	0009553000065867	96.5

Bank reserves its rights to cancel/ adjourn the auction without giving any reason at any time. *Sd/-* **Manager**
Corporate Office Regd. Office: SIB House, T B Road, Mission Quarters, Thrissur, Kerala - 680001
Telephone Number : + 91-487-2420020, Fax Number : + 91-487-2420020, E-Mail : sibcorporate@sib.co.in, Website : www.southindianbank.com. Corporate Identity Number: L65191KL1929PLC001017

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Application Notification No. 565/ATVM Facilitator/11/2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications from Retired Railway Employees / General Public of Bengaluru Division for Engagement as ATVM Facilitator at the following Railway Stations over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved / General Tickets through ATVM machines on recharge bonus basis for the period upto of two years which can be extended to further one year subject to extension of the scheme and satisfaction of the Competent Authority.

Sl. No.	Station	Station Category	No. of Vacancies	Sl. No.	Station	Station Category	No. of Vacancies
1	Bengaluru Cantonment	NSG-3	2	8	Malur	NSG-4	2
2	Tumakuru	NSG-4	4	9	Ramanagaram	NSG-4	2
3	Krishnarajapuram	NSG-3	2	10	SMVT Bengaluru	NSG-2	2
4	Kengeri	NSG-3	1	11	Maddur	NSG-5	2
5	Channapatna	NSG-4	2	12	Dharmapuri	NSG-5	2
6	Hosur	NSG-4	6	13	Whitefield	NSG-4	3
7	Hindupur	NSG-4	2	14	Yelahanka	NSG-4	3
						TOTAL	35

Date and time of Submission of Application: From 10:00 Hrs to 15:00 Hrs, 17.12.2025
Date and time of Opening of Application: 15:05 Hrs, 17.12.2025
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
PUB/648/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
MECHANICAL WORK
Tender Notice No. 11-2025 dated 14.11.2025
DRM(M)'s office, Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the President of India invites sealed tender from the reputed firms/ contractors for the following work.:- **Name of work with its locality** : The contract work of Implementation of metal trough (SS Drip Tray) in place of FRP trough below RMPU in LHB AC Coaches in Solapur division. **System of tendering** - Single packet system., **Approximate cost of work** - Rs.50,85,715.95/-, **Cost of the Tender form** - Nil, **Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased** - DRM(M)'s office, Central Railway, Solapur, **Earnest money to be deposited** - Rs. 1,01,800/-, **Completion period of the work** - Six months from the date of commencement of the work. **Date and Time for submission of tender** - 08.12.2025 at 15.00 hrs., **Date and time of opening of tender** - 08.12.2025 at 15.30 hrs. **Website particulars & notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen** - www.ireps.gov.in
SUN 91 **Sr. DME / Solapur**
DOWNLOAD UTS APP FOR TICKETS

Protest held in Lalbagh against tunnel road plan

BENGALURU, DHNS

The All India Students Association (AISA), COLLECTIVE, and FridaysForFuture (Karnataka) held a flash protest in Lalbagh opposing the proposed tunnel road project.

Close to 20 students and activists participated in the demonstration and raised concerns about the project being pushed despite expert warnings, environmental risks and the absence of a transparent public consultation.

"The tunnel is estimated to cost Rs 17,000 to Rs 20,000 crore, making it one of Karnataka's most expensive transport projects. At a time when metro fares are being raised in the name of fund shortage, this scale of expenditure on a project that will only benefit a small section of people is entirely unjustified," a statement by the group said.

They said the government has not conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study or carried out geological, hydrological and biodiversity studies. The protestors raised concerns about the damage it will do to ecology.

"The proposed construction shafts come right below Lalbagh, an irreplaceable historic, ecological and cultural landmark. Large-scale underground drilling will disrupt groundwater flow, destabilise soil layers and worsen flooding. Bengaluru already faces severe drainage problems and this project risks making them worse," they said.

The protestors said the city needed affordable, reliable, and accessible mobility for all.

"If the government truly wants to reduce Bengaluru's traffic, this Rs 20,000 crore budget should be spent on strengthening public transport, not on an unnecessary tunnel. Bengaluru has only around 6,000 BMTC buses right now. With this kind of investment, the government could double the number of buses and even make bus travel free for everyone for several years," said Sushant from AISA.

The protestors demanded that the government immediately halt the tunnel project, make major investment in BMTC buses, provide separate bus lanes with improved frequency and last mile connectivity, expand suburban rail for sustainable connectivity, complete all pending Metro lines before starting new mega-projects and conduct transparent studies and genuine public consultation for all future major infrastructure moves.

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INTERVIEW

'It's perfectly fine to have exclusion criteria for guarantees'

Money in women's hands alters patriarchal setup, says professor

The Congress government is about to touch the halfway mark, and its five 'guarantee' schemes (Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyothi, Anna Bhagya, Shakti and Yuva Nidhi) have generated hot debates.

Prof Prabha Kotiswaran of Kings' College London led a study on the schemes, primarily Gruha Lakshmi. She speaks with *DH*'s **Sujay B M** on welfare, feminist principles and financial burden of the schemes. Excerpts:

Take us through the methodology of your 18-month survey.
Given the electoral context in which these cash transfers are rolled out, there are no baseline studies on people's lives before the cash transfer. We not only wanted to see if there were positive changes, but also ascertain whether they were precisely due to the guarantees and not extraneous factors like getting a job, inheriting some money, etc. So, we considered women from comparative socioeconomic backgrounds and divided them into two groups – Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries and others. We asked 100-120 questions, and economists feel our sample size (2,045) is adequate.

Female representation amongst surveyors is key to success in such surveys. How did you go about it?
The survey community is largely male-dominated since the work is very taxing. We insisted and got more than half women surveyors. But there's no such thing as 'understanding' the female voter. We asked women if they voted for a particular party because of cash promises and we didn't find any correlation between the two. This is made worse by the fact that every party is announcing cash transfers.

Critics question the cost at which guarantees are rolled out. Even the CAG has flagged concerns
Yes, the fiscal pressure is high. But for centuries, women have performed unpaid work, and feminists think this burden keeps them away from paid employment. These schemes are highly laudable since they change the patriarchal structure. Such arguments of financial instability were also made when MGNREGA was introduced, but it saved a lot of families during Covid. So, I think large experiments of this sort require some amount of political risk-taking.

Many experts and bureaucrats feel the guarantees can be made more focused.
Yes, of course. It's perfectly fine to have exclusion criteria. Karnataka is actually most liberal (compared to other states) and it's a huge percentage of the budget. While the poor use guarantees for their basic needs, the well-off use it for luxury consumption.

Prabha Kotiswaran

Don't you think women from more marginalised communities should get more money?
31% felt all women should get it. There are ways in which you give it to everyone, but you can tax (wealthier) women for getting it. The key thing about this is solidarity. If you are giving it to every woman, you recognise that women's unpaid work benefits society. In other states where they gave different amounts to different women, for instance West Bengal, it hasn't worked well.

How did these schemes impact the village economy?
While women say Shakti scheme has helped them travel to cities for purchasing things, some feel their husbands, who worked as private transport providers, have lost their jobs due to Shakti. A lot of African countries have done a lot to look at what happens at the village. One of our recommendations is to look at the economic impact on the village as a unit.

Some BJP leaders claimed the guarantees would increase fights between husband and wife, but your study indicates that 48% women felt day-to-day conflicts had reduced.
Marriage, to begin with, is a highly unequal relationship. The BJP may think we're all living in islands of harmony, but we're not. The guarantees are a game-changer because the money reorients the marital bargain. We found that women now have more say over the husband's earnings as a result of getting this money. Husbands are also trusting the women more in terms of financial aspects. It's a social churn that will take time.

Do you think there are ways to sensitise men about these schemes?
We've been working on an infographic that talks about some of the myths about cash transfers. We can also have some things around unpaid work. Getting children to develop some skills (household work), especially boys, can help.

Realtor held for stalking actor; cops nab him on arrival from SL at airport

He has sponsored many celebrity cricket tourneys

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The Govindarajanagar police on Saturday arrested 44-year-old realtor Aravind Venkatesh Reddy for allegedly stalking and sexually harassing a film actress.

The police said that the duo were dating before the actress rejected him as he was too much into partying and was addicted to drinks.

A senior police officer said a team headed by the Govindarajanagar inspector nabbed Reddy at the airport when he landed from Sri Lanka. He has been taken into custody for investigation.

Reddy, founder of AVR Group, has sponsored several celebrity cricket tournaments in Dubai, Sri Lanka and India. He came in contact with the actress in 2021 and invited her as a special guest for the inauguration of a cricket tournament in Sri Lanka.

Soon, they became close to each other. However, with time, the actress began distancing herself from him. Miffed, Aravind reportedly began to threaten, stalk and threaten her family with dire consequences.

Unable to bear the mental and physical harassment, the actress reportedly consumed 100 tablets at her residence in JP Nagar in an attempt to end her life, but was rushed to a hospital just in time and was saved.

Reddy, who came to know about the incident, feared arrest and wrote an apology to her, saying he would stay away from her. But a few months later, the realtor allegedly stalked her on several occasions and shared her morphed photos on social media.

The suspect even tried to defame her by posting an anonymous letter to her family and friends when she spurned him again.

She filed a case with Rajarajeshwari Nagar police on October 17, and the case was transferred to Govindarajanagar police recently.

The complaint said Reddy forced her to maintain a relationship with him, much against her wishes, police said.

He didn't respond when the police issued notices to him to appear before the police for investigation soon after the FIR was filed, the officer said.

As the police received information that the suspect is returning from abroad, a lookout notice was issued against him.

Reddy is currently being interrogated after a medical examination. He will be produced before the court subsequently.

A resident of Marathahalli, he was also a film producer and captain of the Bellary Tuskers cricket team.

What victim says?

The 36-year-old actress told DH that Reddy came to Mysuru in a customised red colour car and told her that he had spent crores of rupees on it.

"He said it was for me, but I did not even sit in the car as I was fed up with his lifestyle and aggressive behaviour. I openly rejected his relationship soon after I came to know what kind of person he is and asked him to stay away. But I was not able to tolerate his continuous torture and decided to file a complaint," she said.

BJP leaders huddle to chalk out strategy for Winter Session

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka on Sunday chaired a meeting of senior BJP leaders convened to deliberate on the strategy for the Winter Session of legislature from December 8.

Among issues that the party is likely to initiate a debate on include the contentious Tunnel Road project, closure of government schools, problems faced by districts in North Karnataka, delay in disbursing crop loss compensation to farmers. "We will ensure solutions are found to these problems," he told reporters.

The poor infrastructure in government schools is another issue that the party is likely to question the government on. "The special treatment that inmates at the Parappana Agrahara jail are receiving will also be raised. We will also question the government on pothole-riddled roads of Bengaluru," said Ashoka.

Speaking to reporters, Ashoka said the meeting discussed about raising the government school infrastructure issues in the session. "Classrooms in the government schools have not been repaired. Shoes and socks have not been distributed on time. I will write to the Speaker about this. We will also discuss the special privileges for terrorists in Parappana Agrahara central prison, the use of narcotic substances in educational institutions and pothole problems in Bengaluru."

Ashoka stated that BJP and JD(S) will hold a coordination meeting before the session to arrive at floor strategy.

Himalayan songbird ...

Rubythroat, From Page 3

These birds usually travel with other passerines that favour open grassland and scrub ecosystems like the Himalayan bluethroat, says Prashant.

At Hoskote, birders found the rubythroat in close proximity to a female bluethroat, wintering warblers, and other ground-loving migrant species. "But there have been sightings of the bluethroat in Bengaluru earlier as well," Prashant notes. Hoskote Lake, known for its grassland, makes for the perfect habitat for these kinds of birds that migrate long distances in mixed flocks.

The police personnel take out a route march, a day before the RSS route march, in Chittapur, Kalaburagi district, on Saturday. DH PHOTO

Chittapur town turns into fortress for RSS route march

CHITTAPUR (KALABURAGI DISTRICT), DHNS

Chittapur town has turned into a fortress ahead of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) route march, scheduled between 3 pm and 5.30 pm on Sunday.

Over 1,200 policemen from Yadgir, Kalaburagi and Bidar districts, including an additional SP, 5 DySPs, 18 police inspectors and 51 PSIs, have been deployed to ensure no untoward incident takes place during the march.

The Town Municipal Council (TMC) and the police department have installed 56 CCTV cameras along the route. This apart, 10 drone cameras will be used during the march.

The TMC has issued the organisers the permission to put 200 Bhagwa flags and buntings in the town from 10 am on Saturday to 7 pm on Sunday.

As per the order by Kalaburagi bench of Karnataka High Court and the conditional permission issued by the taluk administration, only 300 ganaveshadharis and 50-member band have been allowed to take part in the march.

The RSS route march in the town to mark the centenary of the Sangh was initially planned for October 18. The taluk administration denied permission after RDPR Minister and Chittapur MLA Priyank Kharge raised objection to RSS events being conducted on government property.

After multiple meetings and the high court direction, the taluk administration gave conditional permission to hold the route march in the town on Sunday.

Moily bats for cultural revival, cites Salumarada Thimmakka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Former chief minister M Veerappa Moily on Saturday stressed the urgent need for cultural preservation, asserting that "culture is a valuable tool for uniting hearts" and its decline is a matter of national concern.

Inaugurating the 'Santhavani' programme organised at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Moily said, "Without culture, one cannot achieve anything. Currently, there is a need to discuss more about culture." He highlighted the idea that global thinkers largely share common values, focusing on humanity rather than sectarianism. "Wherever you search in the culture of the world, you will not find hatred," he observed.

He stressed that true cultural understanding requires honesty and simplicity, not scholarship or scholars. Moily praised environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka as a remarkable example of innate culture, highlighting her selfless act of growing plants on the roadside, calling her a role model who didn't need education or a college degree.

He urged the audience to make friends with at least four such pure-minded people, declaring this to be the wealth of life.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan president K G Raghavan presided over the function, which was also attended by vice-president Chiranjiv Singh, director Suresh and scholar Shatavadhani R Ganesh.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB) vice president Chiranjiv Singh, former CM Veerappa Moily, scholar Shatavadhani R Ganesh, BVB president K G Raghavan during the 'Santhavani' programme at Bhavan in Bengaluru, on Saturday.

BYV confident of second term as BJP chief

BENGALURU, DHNS: State BJP president B Y Vijayendra hinted that he would get a second term to head the party.

The party has not completed its internal election process in a few states, including Karnataka, where Vijayendra has not completed his three-year term. There is pressure on the BJP leadership to replace him.

Asked if clarity would emerge now that the Bihar election was done, Vijayendra said: "I'm confident that there'll be clarity. I have clarity and that's why I'm continuing my work as the state president."

Vijayendra was appointed as the Karnataka BJP president in November 2023. His elevation caused heartburn within the party, and he has been unable to douse the flames. The Bihar election result has a message for BJP leaders in Karnataka, Vijayendra said. "We must stay united and fight the corrupt Congress government."

"We need to do much more in taking the achievements of the Modi administration to every household," he said.

Inter-state fake Nandini ghee racket busted; four arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: The CCB sleuths have busted a major interstate racket involved in producing and supplying adulterated ghee packed in counterfeit Nandini-branded sachets and bottles. Four accused have been arrested, and goods worth Rs 1.26 crore have been seized.

A CCB Special Investigation Squad officer said that the accused were manufacturing adulterated ghee in Tamil Nadu using coconut and palm oil. The product was then packed (using machinery) into fake Nandini sachets and plastic bottles and transported to Bengaluru. It was supplied to local distributors who held official KMF licenses.

These distributors allegedly sold the adulterated ghee to wholesale and retail stores and even Nandini parlours at the price of genuine Nandini ghee.

Acting on discreet intelligence inputs, a joint team of the CCB Special Investigation Squad and the KMF Vigilance Wing conducted raids on November 14 at godowns, shops, and vehicles linked to Krishna Enterprises in Nanjamba Agrahara, Chamarajpet, owned by the main accused and his family members.

During the operation, a vehicle arriving from Tamil Nadu with adulterated ghee packed in fake Nandini sachets and bottles was intercepted and seized.The driver was detained.

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Experience : 8+ years of experience in sales and possess excellent interpersonal skills.
Skills : Sales or Circulation of newspapers.
Qualification : Any Graduate
Job Purpose :

- Achieve circulation target, promote and monitor publication in the assigned region.
- Formulate and implement various market strategies.
- Distributes and explains circulation instructions and changes to distributors and dealers and investigates and adjusts dealer complaints.
- Early morning reporting on field is mandatory.
- Two-wheeler is mandatory.

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ನಂ.ರಾಒಸ:ಆಡಳಿತ:1419:2025-2026 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15-11-2025

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-11-2025ರ ಭಾನುವಾರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವ ನೂತನ ಪದಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಸಭೆ.
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15-11-2025ರ ಶನಿವಾರದಂದು ನಡೆದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕಾರಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭಾ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15-11-2025ರ ಶನಿವಾರದಂದು ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗರ ಸಂಘದ ಆಡಳಿತ ಭವನದ ಎರಡನೇ ಮಹಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸಭಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕಾರಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯ ನಡವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಸಂಘದ ಪದಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕಾರಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-11-2025 ರ ಭಾನುವಾರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗರ ಸಂಘದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ (ಬಿ.ಐ.ಟಿ) 7ನೇ ಮಹಡಿಯ ಎ.ಐ&ಎಂ.ಎಲ್ ಸೆಮಿನಾರ್ ಹಾಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕಾರಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರುಗಳು ಸಭೆಗೆ ಆಗಮಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗರ ಸಂಘದ ಪದಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಚುನಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿಸಲಿಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿಯಂತೆ ನಾಮಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ನಾಮಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಚುನಾವಣಾ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಹಂಗಾಮಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿರವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ

ರಾಜ್ಯ ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗರ ಸಂಘದ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದ ಪದಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳ ವಿವರ:-

(1) ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, (2) ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ 2 ಸ್ಥಾನಗಳು, (3) ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, (4) ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, (5) ಖಜಾಂಚಿ.

ಚುನಾವಣಾ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ

1. ನಾಮಪತ್ರಗಳ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-11-2025 ರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ರಿಂದ 12:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
2. ನಾಮಪತ್ರಗಳ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-11-2025 ರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 12:00 ರಿಂದ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
3. ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-11-2025 ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12:45 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
4. ನಾಮಪತ್ರ ಹಿಂಪಡೆಯುವುದು	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-11-2025 ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12:45 ರಿಂದ 1:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
5. ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಅಂತಿಮ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-11-2025 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 1:00 ರಿಂದ 1:15 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
6. ಮತ ಚಲಾವಣೆ (ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇದ್ದರೆ)	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-11-2025 ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 1:15 ರಿಂದ 2:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
7. ಮತಗಳ ಎಣಿಕೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-11-2025 ರಂದು ಮತದಾನ ಮುಗಿದ ನಂತರ.
8. ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ	ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23-11-2025 ರಂದು ಮತ ಎಣಿಕೆ ಮುಗಿದ ನಂತರ.

ಸಹಿ/-
(ಎಂ.ಪುಟ್ಟಸ್ವಾಮಿ)
ಹಂಗಾಮಿ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

Lokayukta files status report in MUDA case

BENGALURU, PTI: Karnataka Lokayukta filed a status report in trial court on Saturday in connection with the investigation into the alleged irregularities in allocation of MUDA land parcels to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's family.

The City Civil and Sessions Court on Saturday heard proceedings in the private complaint filed by activist Snehamayi Krishna against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with regard to the charges.

The complaint accuses the chief minister and others of alleged irregularities in the allotment of Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) sites to members of the CM's family. When the matter was called, the complainant appeared in person.

The Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) representing the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the SPP appearing for the Lokayukta were also present.

During the brief hearing, the Lokayukta's SPP submitted a status report on the ongoing probe into the MUDA-related allegations.

A copy of the report was handed over to the complainant.

The court adjourned the proceedings to December 4.

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Family and Friends

100 Urdu schools to switch to English from next academic yr

Minority Welfare dept to provide funds for upgrade

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has decided to introduce English medium at select 100 Urdu schools in Karnataka.

The Department of School Education and Literacy decided to upgrade 100 Urdu-medium government schools into Karnataka Public Schools (KPS) at the instance of the Department of Minority Welfare. Furthermore, the Minority Welfare Department has offered to allocate Rs 100 crore for upgrading the selected schools.

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa told *DH*, "Parents want to enrol their children in English-medium schools. So, we have decided to upgrade 100 Urdu-medium schools to KPS where bilingual education, both Urdu and English will be offered."

Madhu Bangarappa

Incidentally, 400 schools where Urdu had been the medium of instruction switched to English/Bilingual in 2020, according to data from the School Education Department. "At the 18th State-Level Review Meeting convened to discuss the implementation of the Prime Minister's 15-point programme, a decision was taken to start English-medium sections at Urdu schools. Although there were plans to do so in 1,000 schools, that did not come to fruition owing to various reasons," said an official from the department.

English has been adopted as the medium of instruction from class one along with Urdu in these 400 schools. However, the 100 schools slated to be upgraded will have English as a medium of instruction right from LKG.

Enrolment at Urdu-medium schools has been on the decline with parents opting to send their children to private English-medium schools. Not only will switching to English drive enrolment, it will also enable more children from minority communities to pursue higher education, added the official from the School Education Department.

Of the more than 4,000 Urdu-medium schools under the purview of School Education and Literacy Department, admission has plummeted to single digits in several schools. "Schools with very low admissions will be merged with the 100 earmarked for upgradation," the official said.

Minister for Minority Welfare B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan said that as announced in the State Budget, the Minority Welfare Department will provide financial assistance to the School Education Department for upgrading 100 Urdu-medium schools, where a bilingual system will be introduced. These schools will offer education for students from LKG to PU.

ED files chargesheet against Satish Sail in China iron ore export case

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has filed a chargesheet against Karnataka Congress MLA Satish Sail and a company linked to him in a money laundering investigation related to the alleged illegal export of iron ore worth Rs 44 crore.

The prosecution complaint was filed before a designated Prevention of Money Laundering Act court in Bengaluru, the federal probe agency said. Sail, the 59-year-old legislator from the Karwar assembly seat in Uttara Kannada, and his company Mallikarjun Shipping Pvt Ltd have been named as accused in the chargesheet, the ED said, adding that the MLA was its MD.

NAAC inks MoU to adopt best practices for online education

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to imbibe the best practices adopted by the Commonwealth of Learning, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding with the former.

NAAC is hoping that the collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning will help share knowledge on innovative educational resources, particularly where online education is concerned. The two agencies will work in tandem with other regional bodies across the country. Among the areas that NAAC and Commonwealth of Learning will focus on include design and development, training and capacity building, and quality assurance. The two agencies will also undertake joint research projects.

Desired outcomes of the project

- Comprehensive review of online programmes
- 40 faculty members to be trained in online programme design and development
- Developing a minimum of 20 quality-assured online programmes
- Developing indicators for quality assurance modules for online programmes
- Implementation of online programmes at higher education institutions according to prescribed quality criteria
- Working towards improving online education policies and regulations
- Best practices to be shared with other countries
- Students, professionals looking to re-skill and upskill'

Both the agencies will be involved in the implementation of the project titled 'Transforming Indian Higher Education Through Online Learning: Capacity Building for Improving Quality Assurance Systems' over a period of 16 months, according to a statement released by NAAC to the media.

The statement went on to add that the 'longitudinal interventions' would help 10 select universities adopt the best practices, which would subsequently be shared with other varsities in a structured manner.

"Best practices in online education will subsequently be leveraged to improve the same in India," the statement added.

TRUMPETING TRIBAL RIGHTS

Tribal artistes perform during 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' celebrations, to mark the birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda, in Chikkamagaluru on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

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I, PATEL Navdeep R/O 205, Nakshatra Apartment, 5th Cross,Vaikuntam Layout, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru-560037 have changed my minor daughter's name from SAANVI to SAANVI NAVDEEP PATEL. Affidavit Date-12.11.2025 notary Uday Kumar K, Bangalore, Karnataka.

I, HARISH. S. S/o.Late. T.C.SRIRAM R/a#500 Gokula, Rajeevgandhi Nagar, NTI Layout 2nd`Phase 1st`A`Cross Kodigehalli Bangalore 560097 Have Changed My Name to HARISH KUMAR S. vide`affidavit Dated:15.11.2025 before`Notary S.P.Gandhi Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DHARANI SHEKAR G. aged about 49 years, son of Mr.G.N.Gajendran Naidu, also called as Gummidi Narayanaswamy Gajendra, residing at No. 103. Srivari Residency, Silicon Town, Near Family Express, Doddanagamangala, Electronics City, Bengaluru-560100, have changed my name from "G. DHARANI" or "DHARANI GAJENDRAN" to "DHARANI SHEKAR G." vide Affidavit Dated 14-11-2025 sworn to before Advocate and Notary Public B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru

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Six killed, seven injured in two separate accidents in DK

MANGALURU, DHNS: Six people, including three from Bengaluru, lost their lives in two separate accidents in Dakshina Kannada district on Saturday.

Three people from Bengaluru, including two women, were killed and six others suffered grievous injuries after their Innova car crashed into Narayana Guru Circle at B C Road in Bantwal taluk. According to the police, the deceased are Ravi (64), Nanjamma (75) and Ramya (23), all residents of Peenya, Bengaluru.. The mishap occurred when they were travelling to Udupi from Bengaluru on Mangaluru-Bengaluru National Highway.

The injured - Susheela, Keerthi Kumar, Kiran, Bindu, Prashanth and driver Subrahmanya - have been admitted to various hospitals. All the passengers travelling in the car were relatives.

A case has been registered at Bantwal Traffic Police Station.

Three die in serial accident

In a serial accident, involving two gas tankers and an autorickshaw, three people were killed and one injured, near Panambur Junction on the outskirts of the city.

According to Commissioner of Police Sudheer Kumar Reddy C H, the accident occurred when a cow was crossing the road.

A gas tanker coming from Mulki towards Mangaluru stopped to allow the animal to pass. An autorickshaw behind it also halted, followed by an MUV.

At this moment, another tanker approaching from the rear rammed the MUV with force. The impact pushed the Innova sideways, causing the autorickshaw to get crushed between the two tankers. The autorickshaw was reduced into heap of mangled metal.

The deceased are Mohammed Kunchi (25), an autorickshaw driver and the resident of Ullal, passengers Aboobakar (65) and Ibrahim (68), both residents of Montepadavu, Konaje

The injured is Anand Sanil, a passenger in the Innova car.

The police have arrested Mohammed Sheiky, the driver of the tanker that caused the collision. Investigations are underway.

23 fake Microsoft tech support staff arrested for conning US citizens

BENGALURU, DHNS:

The special cell of the cyber command unit (CCU) conducted a major operation against a fraudulent software company involved in cheating US citizens by impersonating Microsoft technical support personnel.

A senior officer from CID said, after obtaining a search warrant from a city court, a raid was conducted by Savitha Srinivas, SP, special cyber cell on Musk Communications at Sigma Soft Tech Park on Whitefield main road.

The operation was carried out with the support of the CCU technical team, cyber security analysts and officers from neighbouring cyber crime police stations under the guidance of DGP, CCU.

During the operation, 23 suspects actively involved in duping foreign nationals by posing as Microsoft support technicians were arrested.

Seizures include computer systems, digital devices and mobile phones used for committing the offence. Some of the accused, including the kingpin, are absconding and efforts are on to trace them, the officer said.

'Payments in cryptocurrency'

A senior officer from CCU told *DH* that the accused targeted US nationals by posing as technical support executives. They contacted victims, claiming that their computer systems had been hacked and required immediate security software services.

Victims were instructed to pay for the fake services through cryptocurrency, including Bitcoin.

Investigators said the accused collected substantial amounts in crypto wallets. Police said the total loss was yet to be verified.

'Govt, industry and academia should drive next phase of India's growth'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The leaders, who gathered at Chanakya University to celebrate the third Foundation Day in Bengaluru on Saturday, urged people and the government to collectively "dream audaciously, experiment fearlessly, and innovate with purpose," positioning research and high-quality education as the "solution space for humanity's greatest challenges."

The leaders collectively stressed that the next phase of India's growth must be driven by a strong "triple helix" partnership between government, industry, and academia.

Organised under the theme 'Celebrating the Spirit of Vidya Dana,' the event brought together a lineup of industry and policy leaders, including Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the PM Shamika Ravi, who emphasised the imperative for academic institutions to align with India's technological and economic vision.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, a key supporter of the institution, highlighted the transformative role of technology.

"The future of biology is computational, and AI has transformed biology from a descriptive science into a design discipline," she said. She stressed that India's unique demographic and digital health scale provides the foundational layers for precision and personalised medicine.

Shamika Ravi said that the paradox of high graduate unemployment coexisting with severe industrial skill shortages.

"The most educated segment in our society is nearly five times likely to be sitting at home than our youth with a school education," she noted, calling this a failure of the education system to pivot from merely "giving out degrees" to imparting market-ready "skills."

Chancellor and former ISRO Chairman S Somanath, in his presidential address, said, "Chanakya University is just shaping its character around the core principles of purity of thought, ethical conduct and transformative action."

The gathering also felicitated key contributors to the university.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Yashavantha Dongre welcomed dignitaries, including Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Rakesh Bharti Mittal, CEO of Azim Premji Foundation Anurag Behar, Founder of Accel India Prashanth Prakash and Founder of Aarin Capital T V Mohandas Pai.

Seized explosives go off ...

Explosives, from Page 3

Relatives of the civilian victim, the tailor, staged protests on Saturday, demanding to know why a non-police worker had been allowed inside a facility handling such volatile material.

Officials confirmed that the explosives were part of a 360 kg ammonium nitrate-based cache seized from a rented accommodation in Faridabad during the recent crackdown on a suspected "white-collar" terror module. The same module is being probed for its alleged links to the Hyundai i20 car blast near Delhi's Red Fort, which killed at least 10 people last week.

Investigators say the Faridabad seizure is also connected to the broader probe into a 2,900 kg ammonium nitrate haul recovered earlier from the Delhi–NCR region.

The suspected links of the module to radicalised professionals, including doctors, have widened the investigation in recent days, with multiple detentions and digital device seizures reported from Kashmir.

CCTV visuals from the compound captured a sudden flash, followed by a massive fireball and secondary explosions, which forced bomb disposal teams to delay entry for several minutes due to the risk of further detonations.

Senior officers inspecting the site early Saturday said the blast left a deep crater in the yard where the explosives had been stored. Nearby homes suffered blown-out windows, collapsed tin roofs and debris damage.

A detailed inquiry into whether safety protocols were followed, especially while handling material known to be highly unstable, has been ordered. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had ordered a probe into the incident. "I have ordered a probe to ascertain the cause of the accidental explosion," Sinha said in a post on X.

Opposition leaders have demanded accountability, with several calling for an independent probe. Online outrage intensified after local residents posted images of mangled vehicles and debris scattered across the neighbourhood.

Officials described the tragedy as a cruel twist in a terror investigation already under national scrutiny—the very explosives recovered to avert an attack ending up causing one of the deadliest police-station accidents in Kashmir in years.

Siddu meets Rahul, says no discussion on state politics

DKS also in capital; says CM free to meet anyone

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi here on Saturday. Siddaramaiah was in Delhi to attend a book release programme of former union minister and senior advocate Kapil Sibal.

The CM's meeting with Rahul Gandhi fuelled political speculation amid talk of "November Revolution"- possible change of leadership in Karnataka.

However, Siddaramaiah categorically told mediapersons that the state's political issues, including long-pending Cabinet rejig, were not discussed with Rahul.

"This meeting was only to discuss the outcome of Bihar polls," the chief minister said.

The CM said he, along with Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, met Rahul.

Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal and other party central leaders were also present.

The meeting lasted for 15 minutes, in which both Siddaramaiah and Reddy reposed faith in Rahul's leadership and vowed to extend full support to his 'fight against the BJP and its agenda'.

'Support to Rahul'

"Since the Congress suffered a setback in the Bihar assembly polls, Revanth Reddy and I met Rahul. Both of us instilled confidence in Rahul. We also extended full support to his fight against the BJP and its agenda. Together, we will continue to fight against the BJP," the CM said.

The chief minister said he had no plan to meet Congress national president Mallikarjuna Kharge now.

The CM also said he has sought an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday to discuss the state's pending issues, including approval for the Mekedatu and Mahadayi water projects.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar was also in the national capital to attend Kapil Sibal's event.

When asked about the CM's meeting with Rahul Gandhi, Shivakumar said, "The CM is free to meet any leader and there is nothing wrong in it."

When asked whether he had plans to meet the party's top leaders, the deputy chief minister said, "If the party leaders are available, I will meet them."

Reeling from drubbing, Cong to collect Bihar poll data

Congress, from Page 3

Pawar insisted that it was the Rs 10,000 cash transfer to women that did the trick for the NDA.

"This result was unbelievable not just Congress, but for the people of Bihar and our alliance partners too," Venugopal told reporters. "A 90% strike rate for a party has never happened. We are doing a thorough analysis, collecting data from across Bihar. Within one or two weeks, we will come out with concrete proof."

He alleged that the "results were designed in such a way that no government could be formed if JD(U) decides to switch sides".

B'luru's unprotected 'hero stones'...

Hero stones, from Page 3

Hero stones expert R Shesha Sastry emphasised the national importance of Karnataka, which boasts the maximum number of such stones. "There is no equivalent to this in terms of sculpture or the literature it provides in the country," he noted.

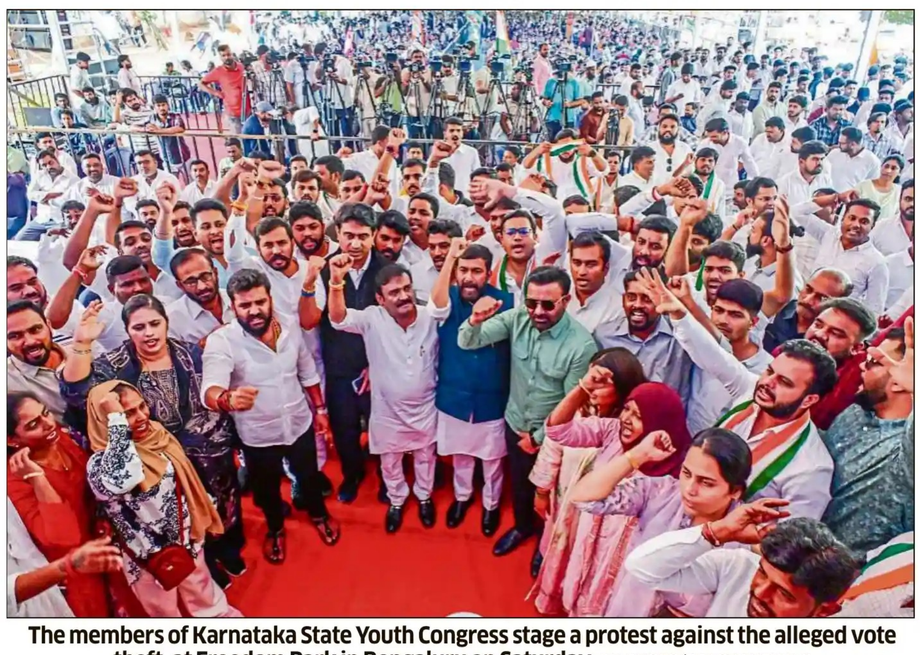
He said veeragallus are commemorative stones erected to honour an individual who died in battle defending their village or community from threats like rival kingdoms, wild animals and other acts of sacrifice.

These stones, through their inscriptions and sculpture, provide a picture of the social, political and religious status of their respective eras. The expert elaborated that the sculptures, in particular, paint a detailed picture of the clothes, weapons and customs in the state at the time. "Each and every hero stone is an important historical document based on its sculpture and inscription, which should be preserved for the future generations."

A bit of history

This particular stone, found in Kurudu Sonnenahalli near Medahalli (off the Hoskote highway), is dedicated to a warrior named Sambayya, son of Madisetti, who died in a battle at Uralivu. Sambayya and other soldiers bravely defended their village, then known as Ereyappamangala (an agrahara named after Ganga king Ereyappa in the 8th century), from an attack by the Nolambas (a rival kingdom).

VOCIFEROUS ON VOTING RIGHT



The members of Karnataka State Youth Congress stage a protest against the alleged vote theft, at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

28 black bucks die at Belagavi zoo...

Black bucks, from Page 3

... To ensure that the infection does not spread, other black bucks have been quarantined and an enclosure has been closed for the public. We have applied disinfectant in the area," Balehosur said.

Forest officials did not reply to a query whether the veterinary doctor appointed by the Zoo Authority of Karnataka had been examining the animals in the zoo periodically.

Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre expressed concern over the death of black bucks and ordered an inquiry.

In a statement issued in Bengaluru, Khandre said a committee of experts would investigate if the black bucks had died due to contaminated water or food or any infection that spread from domestic animals like cats and others.

"Death of animals at the zoo is a matter of concern and the staff have to ensure that such incidents do not recur. If negligence of staff comes to the fore, action would be taken against them as per the law," the statement said.

Saalumarada Thimmakka laid to rest with full state honours

BENGALURU, PTI: Padma Shri recipient Saalumarada Thimmakka was laid to rest with full state honours here on Saturday. The 114-year-old environmentalist, who earned the reputation of 'Vruksha Maate' (Mother of Trees) had passed away in a private hospital on Friday owing to old age-related ailments. Thimmakka had planted 385 banyan trees all along the 4.5-km stretch between Hulikal and Kudur, now in Bengaluru South district. The last rites were performed according to the Lingayat tradition at Kalagrama in Jnana Bharathi campus in Bengaluru. Home Minister G Parameshwara, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre and several MLAs were present.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over Coastal Karnataka and dry weather prevailed over South Interior and North Interior Karnataka
Forecast Nov 16: Rainfall to occur at few places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	28	11.6	00
Bidar	27.4	10	00
Vijayapura	29	12.4	00
Dharwad	29	12	00
Haveri	28.6	12.2	00
Kalaburagi	31	16.2	00
Raichur	29.4	14	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.2	21.6	00
Karwar	34.8	19.6	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	31.6	25	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	30.9	17.8	00
Bengaluru	27.1	17.2	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	28.2	16	00
Davangere	31	14	00
Hassan	33.3	NA	00
Mysuru	30	17.8	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	27.2	19.2	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	26.4	9.7	00
Kolkata	NA	18.4	00
Mumbai	33.3	18	00
Chennai	30.7	23.4	00
Pune	29.8	11.2	00
Hyderabad	29.4	13.8	00
Th'puram	30.8	23.4	03

Aadhaar proof of identity, not citizenship, instructions issued: EC to SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Election Commission has told the Supreme Court that the Aadhaar card would be allowed only to be used as "proof of identity and not of citizenship," for the revision of electoral rolls.

"Aadhaar is only being used as a proof of identity in terms of Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950," the poll panel said in an affidavit in a PIL filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

The EC said that it had already issued instructions in this regard. The assertion came in a reply to the interlocutory application by Upadhyay, seeking a direction against the use of Aadhaar as proof of date of birth in Form 6 used for the registration of new voters.

The poll panel said that by the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, Section 23 of the RP (Representation of People's) Act, 1950 was amended to enable the linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem, to curb multiple enrolments of the same individual in different places. Based on this amendment, Form 6 was also amended with effect from June 17, 2022.

It also referred to the UIDAI's Office Memorandum of August 22, 2023, which has clarified that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship, residence, or date of birth. It further referred to Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act 2016, which states that the Aadhaar number is not proof of citizenship or residence.

The EC said this court had stated on September 8 that the Aadhaar card was to be used for the purpose of establishing identity in view of Section 23(4) of the RP Act, 1950.

The EC also said that Section 23 of the RP Act provides for the inclusion of names in electoral rolls, and its sub-section (2) provides that the Electoral Registration Officer may direct the inclusion of the name of an applicant after proper verification of facts in such manner as may be prescribed.

The Form 6 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, provides for the application form for new voters or for making a claim to be included in the electoral roll as provided under Rule 13(1) and 26 of the RE Rules, 1960, it said.

On October 7, the court issued notice on Upadhyay's application.

The bench had observed that the apex court had already said Aadhaar was not the proof of citizenship and domicile.

The application was filed in a pending plea seeking a direction to the EC to conduct Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls at regular intervals throughout the country.

BELAGAVI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Belagavi. Fax/Phone No: 0831-2470342, 2470257 E-mail: belagavibuda@gmail.com

No: BUDA/PWD/E TENDER/2025-26/2566 Date: 15-11-2025

Addendum Notification

Commissioner, Belagavi Urban Development Authority, Belagavi has given tender notification **No/BUDA/Auction-1/2025-26 Dtd 30-10-2025.** The same notification is published in vijayvani and deccan herald daily papers on Dated: 31-10-2025. As there are some modification / corrections in this notification hence this Addendum is issued.

Due to technical reasons the below mentioned plots are here by withdrawn from the auction.

Sl. No.	Details of Tender Notification- No/BUDA/Auction-1/2025-26 Dtd 30-10-2025
1	Plot No 1112 (600 sqft) in Sch No 40, Hanuman Nagar Belagavi
2	Plot No 1060 (1139 sqft) in Sch No 40, Hanuman Nagar Belagavi
3	Plot No 1002 (1240 sqft) in Sch No 40, Hanuman Nagar Belagavi

Further details visit online Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** / Contact Phone No.: **0831-2470342** during Office Hours.

Sd/- Commissioner
Belagavi Urban Development Auhority, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/1325/Adverto/2025-26

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಸ್ಕಿ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಪುಕಾಮ:ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ:ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.11.2025

–:: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ::–(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಮಸ್ಕಿ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಸನ್ 2021–22 ಮತ್ತು 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೇದಾರರಿಗೆ (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ: 51711, 51724, 51728) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1, ರ ಪರತ್ತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಐಟಂವಾರು ಬಿಡ್ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಮತ್ತು ಹಳದಿ ನಾಮಫಲಕವುಳ್ಳ 4 ಚಕ್ರದ ವಾಹನವನ್ನು ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಸ್ವಂತ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸೇವಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರಿಗೆ (ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂ: DMA/2024-25/SE3949/CALL-2) ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಸಿ–1, ರ ಪರತ್ತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಬಿಡ್ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ತಮ್ಮ ದರಗಳನ್ನು http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಅವಧಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.11.2025 ಸಂಜೆ: 5.15 ರೋಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಸಮಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.11.2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.15ಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.maskitown.mrc.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆದು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಪುರಸಭೆ ಮಸ್ಕಿ

DIP/RCR/540/KSMCA/542/2025-26

ಶ್ರೀ ಬನಶಂಕರಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ
ಎಸ್. ಕರಿಯಪ್ಪ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 70
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080– 26714989

ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ

ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05.11.2025 ರಂದು ಇದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭ'ರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದೃಢೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು 31.11.2025 ರ ಬದಲಾಗಿ : **30.11.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಎಂದು ಓದಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.** ಉಳಿದಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI and GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEP Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru - 560038. Ph: 080-25191039
e-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in

Bid No. BMRCL/2024-25/BG/WORK_INDENT77 CALL2 Date: 14.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Petty Repair works in Reach 3 of Line-2 under SSM Department".** The work details can be obtained from the procurement website. The Tender documents can be obtained and submitted **on or before 18-12-2025 upto 15:00 hrs.** Further details can be obtained from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Director (O&M)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION BALLARI
Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-5/2025-26/4068 Dated : 13-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through Karnataka public procurement portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.

TABLE

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT22393	200.00

Note : Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions and also re-tender, tenderers can view in KP Procurement Portal. No Separate Tender notification will be published in the News paper. in this regard.

1)	Venue, Date and time of Pre Bid Meeting for the works	17-11-2025 at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari
2)	Last dates for queries (through KP-procurement portal	18-11-2025 upto 12.00 Hours
3)	Last date for submission of tenders through kp-procurement portal	29-11-2025 upto 16.00 Hours
4)	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids	01-12-2025 at 11.00 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari

Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION BALLARI
Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-1/2025-26/40674 Dated : 13-11-2025.

TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through KPP-portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.

TABLE

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28060	100.00
2)	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT27979	100.00
3)	PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT10427	100.00

Note :Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in KPP_Procurement Portal.

1)	Last dates for queries (through KPP –portal)	19-11-2025 upto 12.00 Hours
2)	Last date for submission of tenders through KPP -portal	29-11-2025 upto 16.00 Hours
3)	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids	01-12-2025 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari

Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Chief Health Officer (PH),
Annex-3, Ground Floor, GBA Head Office,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No: PO(NC)/PR/20/2025-26 Date: 15.11.2025

SHORT TERM NOTIFICATION

Greater Bengaluru Authority invites Short term notification for submission of Proposal for Basic Rates for Display of IEC Kiosk at 143 UPHC's, Solar Energy & LED Lights at 170 Namma Clinics, Fire Extinguishers for 240 Namma Clinics, Wheelchair for 240 Namma Clinics, Stretcher for 240 Namma Clinics, Ramp (Fabrication only for ground floor buildings) for 100 Namma Clinics.

Following is the Events of Notification:

1) Date of Availability of Technical Specifications from Office From Dated: **17.11.2025** onwards 2) Date, Time & Venue of for any queries- Meeting: **20.11.2025** at **11:30** am. at the following venue: Office of the Chief Health Officer (Public health), Ground floor, Annex-3 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru- 560002. **Ph-9480683352.** 3) Last Date and Time for submission of queries to Office (Manually) Dated: **20.11.2025** up to **5:00** pm. 4) Last Date and Time for submission: of Sealed rate quotes for Office: Dated: **24.11.2025** up to **5:00**pm. at the following venue: Office of the Chief Health Officer (Public health), Ground floor, Annex- 3 Building, N R. Square, Bengaluru-560002 **Ph-9480683352.** 5) Opening of submitted quotes: **25.11.2025** up to **5:00**pm.

Note: For above all mentioned items technical Specification is available in Programme Officer, Namma Clinic Office, Ground Floor, Annex-3, GBA Head Office, N.R.Square, Bengaluru-02.

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (PH)
Greater Bengaluru Authority

FROM THE ROOTS | Justice Surya Kant is known to like administrative reforms

Benchless to SC benches, the new CJI has had a long, steady journey

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Around a decade ago, a single-judge bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court set a precedent in the Indian prison system when it allowed conjugal visits and artificial insemination for jail inmates, saying that convicts have the right to procreate. The judge also ordered the Punjab government to form a reforms panel to look into the matter and formulate the necessary rules and infrastructure. Ever since the landmark order, hundreds of convicts, many of them serving long terms, in Punjab jails have spent 'private' time with their spouses at designated rooms within the prison premises.

The judge who issued the order, Justice Surya Kant, will take oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India on November 24. He is due to retire on February 9, 2027.

A first-generation law practitioner, Justice Surya Kant's career has been a slow but steady journey. When the new CJI assumes charge, it will also be a rare occasion for the Supreme Court, where many of the past top judges came from families of eminent judges or advocates.

His ascension to the pinnacle of Indian judiciary started from Petwar village in Haryana's Hisar district. He is also the first from the state to become the CJI.

Known as the son of 'masterji', Justice Kant was born on February 10, 1962. He studied in a village school where there were no benches. His father, late Madan Gopal Sharma Shastri, was a Sanskrit teacher in a local school and mother, Shashi Devi, a homemaker.

After his schooling, he got enrolled at the Government Post Graduate College, Hisar, and graduated in 1981.

Three years later, he completed his law degree from the Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, and started practicing at the District Court, Hisar, in 1984. He shifted to Chandigarh in 1985 to practise in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

During the course of his long career as an advocate, he continued his studies and earned an LLM degree, first in his class and with a First Class, from Kurukshetra University in 2011.

His first major career break came when he was appointed as the Advocate General of Haryana in 2000, the youngest to reach that position. Within a year, he was designated as a Senior Advocate. He held the office of Advocate General till his elevation as a permanent judge to the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 2004.

Fourteen years later, he assumed the charge of the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court in 2018. In 2019, he was elevated to the Supreme Court.

Known for his balanced approach and giving everyone a patient hearing, Justice Kant is seen by lawyers as gentle but firm.

SC Advocate on Record Association President Vipin Nair says a first-generation lawyer like Justice Kant becoming the CJI is "deeply inspirational for the society in general and the Bar in particular".

"What defines him, though, is mediation, not as a buzzword or docket management but as a democratic reform. He sees alternative dispute resolution as the difference between justice promised and justice experienced — especially for those who can't afford the luxury of waiting years for vindication," Nair says.

While lawyers have close encounters with judges in courtrooms, it is through their judgments that the judges are known to the larger public.

In the case of Justice Kant, a few notable judgments since his elevation to the apex court are: In 2019, he held that schemes damaging water bodies violated Article 21 of the Constitution (right to life).

He was part of the five-judge Constitution Bench that unanimously upheld in 2023 the abrogation of Article 370, which gave special privileges to Jammu and Kashmir, by the NDA government at the Centre.

Recently, a bench comprising Justice Kant rapped social media influencer Ranveer Allahbadia over his controversial comments in the 'India Got Latent' show. The bench told Allahbadia's counsel that fundamental rights were not (served) on a platter and came with certain restrictions. "These youngsters may think that we are outdated but we know how to deal with them. Don't take the court lightly," Justice Kant said.

Senior Advocate Sidharth Luthra says his first interaction with the incoming CJI was in 2005-2006 when he appeared before Justice Kant who was then a judge in the Punjab and Haryana HC.

"My clients wanted a transfer of a cyber crime in Gurgaon to the CBI which had an existing cyber unit, since there was no cyber cell in Gurgaon. Rather than simply deciding the issue of transfer to the CBI, he decided to address the fundamental issue," Luthra says, adding that the judge asked the government to have adequate and trained law enforcement persons in Gurgaon as required under the Information Technology Act.

The incoming CJI's penchant for administrative reforms can be understood from some of his verdicts. In 2022, he was part of a three-judge bench that unanimously put in abeyance the colonial-era sedition law.

In 2024, a Division Bench comprising him and Justice Viswanathan ordered one-third of seats reserved for women in the Supreme Court Bar Association's executive committee.

Senior advocate and President of SC Women Lawyers Association, Mahalakshmi Pavani, says elevation of Justice Kant comes at a time when the judiciary must speak not only with authority but also with empathy.

From incumbent CJI B R Gavai, Justice Kant receives not just a position but a moment of institutional transition that demands clarity and conviction. It will largely depend on whether his 'mediation-first' philosophy gets the structural backing it needs to actually reshape how 1.4 billion people encounter the law.

NEW CJI

- Born in 1962
- LLB from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak
- LLM from Kurukshetra University
- Appointed as Haryana Advocate General in 2000
- Elevated to Punjab & Haryana HC in 2004
- Elevated to SC in 2019
- Will take oath as CJI on November 24
- Will retire on February 9, 2027
- Specialised in Constitutional, service and civil matters

Some states may feel the heat: Andhra CM

S N V SUDHIR
VISAKHAPATNAM, DHNS

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu asserted on Saturday that competition among states was both inevitable and essential for the country's economic growth, especially in the context of recent high-profile investment shifts.

Naidu was responding to a question from reporters in Visakhapatnam on the migration of industries to Andhra Pradesh from other states, like the South Korean company Hwaseung deciding to establish its $150-million shoe-manufacturing unit there rather than in Tamil Nadu, and heated discussions over incentives offered for the $15-billion Google data-centre project, which initially drew sharp reactions from Karnataka.

Chandrababu Naidu

Naidu unequivocally said cooperative federalism thrived when states challenged one another, ultimately benefiting citizens.

"If everyone becomes complacent, how will investments grow?" he asked, making it clear that he welcomed healthy rivalry, even within his own government.

He also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for delivering national stability and driving economic reforms, adding, "Some states may feel the heat, but that is natural in a competitive environment. If other states perform better, investors will go there; if we do better, they will come to us. I always encourage competition. Even my ministers should never be complacent."

Hwaseung's decision to move its proposed Rs 1,720-crore non-leather footwear facility from Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu to Andhra Pradesh is set to generate 20,000 direct jobs.

The new plant will be established in Kuppam, Naidu's Assembly constituency, with 100 acres allotted across two villages. It aims to manufacture approximately 20 million pairs of sports shoes annually, primarily for export.

The development triggered strong reactions from Tamil Nadu leaders. Tamil Nadu BJP ex-president K Annamalai criticised the state's DMK government.

Netted Rs 13.25L cr investments in partnership summit: Naidu

VISAKHAPATNAM, DHNS: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said on Saturday that the two-day Visakhapatnam CII Partnership Summit attracted investments to the tune of Rs 13.25 lakh crore, with 613 MoUs providing employment opportunities to 16.31 lakh youth.

He said 4,975 industrialists, including 640 international delegates, participated in the two-day programme that ended on Saturday.

In all, 41 business sessions were organised with 91 speakers, and 16 business meetings were organised with eight countries, he said, adding that he participated in 24 bilateral meetings.

Naidu said the summit was organised in a hybrid model, with knowledge-sharing sessions and discussions on the global industrial scenario.

In addition, 450 students were selected to participate in the summit to help them develop as prospective entrepreneurs.

2 Al-Falah varsity doctors among 3 detained by police

One of detained medicos was in Delhi on blast day

NEW DELHI, PTI

Delhi Police has detained three persons, including two doctors from Haryana's Al-Falah University who were known to Dr Umar Nabi, the driver of the car that exploded near the Red Fort, officials said on Saturday.

They have questioned several individuals, including a tea seller in whose stall Umar had made a brief stop, and also visited a mosque where he prayed, on the day of the blast.

The detentions were made during coordinated raids conducted on Friday night by the Delhi Police Special Cell and a National Investigation Agency team in Haryana's Dhauj, Nuh and adjoining areas, officials said.

According to sources, they detained two Al-Falah University doctors, Mohammad and Mustakim, from Nuh. The two were allegedly in touch with Dr Muzammil Ganaie, who was arrested in connection with the wider probe into a "white collar terror module". They were also close friends of Dr Umar Nabi, the sources said.

Initial interrogation revealed that one of the detained doctors was in Delhi on the day of the blast. He came to the national capital to appear for an interview at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), they said.

Further questioning of Mohammad and Mustakim is underway to ascertain the extent of their association with Dr Ganaie and if they had any role in the wider conspiracy being probed, they added.

Police also questioned a tea seller in Wazirpur Industrial Area, where Dr Umar had stopped for 10 to 15 minutes. The man informed police that Umar did not eat or drink anything, but sat in the tea stall for some time before leaving.

Meanwhile, in a parallel operation in Nuh, investigating agencies detained another man, identified as Dinesh alias Dabbu, for selling fertilisers without a licence. It has emerged that the members of the terror module had pooled around Rs 26 lakh to buy explosive substances and spent Rs 3 lakh out of it to purchase NPK fertiliser, which is commonly used to make bombs.

It is being probed whether Dinesh sold the fertiliser to the suspects.

'UP doctor was in contact with Pak military'

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Dr Shaheen Shahid, who was arrested from Faridabad a few days back over suspicion of being a member of the 'white terror module', which was suspected to be behind the Delhi blast, had allegedly been in touch with a Pakistan military doctor and had plans to flee abroad after triggering blasts in parts of the country, according to sources.

Shaheen, whose brother Dr Parvez Ahmed was also arrested for being a member of the same module, had allegedly tried to rope in over two dozen other doctors and medical students, especially those from Jammu and Kashmir working in Uttar Pradesh, into her network. An AK-47 rifle had been recovered from her car.

Sources also said that Shaheen, who was also in close contact with Saheeda Azhar, the sister of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar and on her direction was planning to establish the women's wing of the terror outfit in the country.

Lalu's daughter quits politics, 'disowns family'

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

A day after the crushing Bihar Assembly poll defeat, there was more bad news for RJD supremo Lalu Prasad.

His daughter Rohini Acharya, who gave an ailing Lalu her kidney, infusing a new lease of life into the former Bihar chief minister, quit politics and disowned the family on Saturday.

"I am quitting politics and I am disowning my family... This is what Sanjay Yadav and Rameez had asked me to do... and I am taking all the blame," Rohini wrote on X on Saturday.

Rohini made her political debut during the 2024 Lok Sabha election from Saran, Lalu Prasad's bastion which he represented four times since 1977, but lost to BJP leader and former Union minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

While posting her decision and angst on social media, she claimed she was taking all the blame on herself, but was doing as told by Sanjay Yadav and Rameez.

Sanjay Yadav is an RJD Rajya Sabha member and a confidant of Tejashwi, without whose permission, no one can even meet Tejashwi. Rameez is also one of Tejashwi's closest associates.

It is believed that Rohini wanted to contest the Assembly elections but was given a cold shoulder by Tejashwi, who, she feels, acted on the advice of his confidant Sanjay.

Rohini Acharya made her political debut during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Saran. PTI FILE

It is also believed that Lalu stood by his son and reprimanded his daughter, who later unfollowed all her family members on social media.

Rohini completed her MBBS but preferred to remain a homemaker after marriage and settled in Singapore.

After her loss during the 2024 general elections, she lay low until she participated in Rahul Gandhi's Voters' Adhikar Yatra before the 2025 Assembly elections.

Earlier this year, Lalu's elder son, Tej Pratap, was expelled by the RJD chief from the party and also thrown out of the family for his alleged misdemeanours. He later floated his own party, the Janshakti Janata Dal.

No need to teach Biharis politics: PM

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at a gathering in Surat largely composed of Biharis, said on Saturday that "the talent of Bihar is everywhere and they don't need to be taught politics; they have the understanding to teach the world about politics".

Earlier in the day, he landed in Surat to reach tribal-dominated Dediapada in the Narmada district in central Gujarat to inaugurate development projects worth Rs 9,700 crore on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, which is celebrated as "Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas".

Speaking at an "unscheduled" event in Surat on his way back to Delhi, he said: "The people of Bihar don't need to be taught politics; they have the power to teach the world about politics. In this election, the NDA's victory and the Mahagathbandhan's defeat have a margin of 10%. This is a very big thing."

He added, "The electors gave a one-sided vote on the issue of development. Today, the hunger for development in Bihar is felt everywhere."

Modi also said that the NDA's victory in Bihar was a combination of "mothers, sisters, and youth".

He said that MY (Mahila or women and the youth) was a new combination that laid the foundation of politics that would take months for political analysts to understand.

"In Indian politics, as we have seen in this election, leaders on bail bonds have been in trouble. In Bihar, there was constant rhetoric about casteism. But the poison of casteism will soon become a thing of the past. Bihar's election has purged the poison of casteism," said the PM in his brief speech.

Meanwhile, in his address at Dediapada, Modi attacked the Congress, accusing it of "ignoring the tribal community" during its rule. "For six decades, Congress governments left the tribal communities to fend for themselves."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers prayers at Devmogra Temple in the Narmada district of Gujarat. PTI

BJP cracks down on rebels

Former Union minister Raj Kumar Singh on Saturday resigned from the BJP, taking exception to a showcause notice that said he was being "suspended" for "anti-party" activities, reports DHNS.

The saffron party earlier in the day sent out a notice expelling former minister and other rebels, MLC Ashok Kumar Agarwal and Katihar Mayor Usha Agarwal.

Nowgam blast revives memories of 1994 Badami Bagh tragedy

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

The powerful explosion that ripped through Srinagar's Nowgam Police Station on Friday night, killing nine people and injuring over 30, has drawn immediate comparisons with one of Kashmir's worst military accidents — the 1994 blast at the Indian Army's Field Ordnance Depot (FOD) in Badami Bagh Cantonment.

The parallels between the two incidents have triggered renewed scrutiny of how seized explosives are stored and examined in conflict-hit region.

The March 29, 1994 explosion inside the 15 Corps headquarters occurred when Army Ordnance Corps personnel were inspecting arms and ammunition recovered during counter-insurgency operations.

Relatives of a person killed in the accidental explosion at Nowgam police station, in Srinagar. PTI

Parliamentary records later confirmed that 13 Army personnel, including senior officers, were killed, while contemporaneous reports placed the toll as high as 15. The blast devastated a section of the cantonment, prompting debates in the Rajya Sabha on the safety of storing volatile material inside Srinagar's most strategic military installation.

Friday's blast at Nowgam bears unsettling similarities. According to officials, forensic teams were analysing explosive material brought from outside Kashmir when the cache detonated around 11:20 pm. J&K police chief has ruled out a terror angle, calling the incident an "accidental blast" during evidence examination.

However, the fact that the material was part of an ongoing terror-related investigation has sharpened questions about handling protocols.

Security experts say the tragedy underscores the persistent risks associated with transporting and testing unstable explosives.

Maha: Rift in MVA after Bihar polls

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A day after the Congress-led I.N.D.I.A bloc suffered a humiliating defeat in Bihar, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the Opposition in Maharashtra seemed to be in a crisis, with the Congress deciding to go it alone in the Mumbai civic polls, while the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Sharad Pawar-headed NCP (SP) seemed to be on different pages.

The BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is the richest civic body of India, with a budget larger than some small states. Hence, the contest for it could be fierce.

BEHIND THE SCHISM

- Cong plans to contest BMC elections on its own
- Inducting MNS into MVA is also another cause for conflict

Nearly six years after the anti-BJP MVA was crafted in the state, differences on many issues — particularly seat-sharing — are cropping up among its constituents. As of now, besides the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and the NCP (SP), the MVA includes constituents like the CPI, CPM, and the PWP.

Uddhav's constant requests to bring his cousin Raj Thackeray's MNS into the MVA fold have irked the Congress, which is against Raj's anti-North-Indian-migrant and anti-Muslim stance.

Even as the Bihar results were rolling in, Thackeray aide Ambadas Danve mounted an offensive against the Congress.

"The Congress should have learnt its lesson earlier, but it did not do so in Bihar either. Had it announced Uddhav as the chief-ministerial face (for the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly polls) and swiftly finalised a seat-sharing deal, the results would have been different. Yet, it made the same mistake in Bihar," he said on Friday.

Bihar results have 'lessons' for everyone: Stalin

CHENNAI, DHNS: In his reaction to the Bihar election verdict, DMK president M K Stalin on Saturday delivered a subtle message to the I.N.D.I.A. bloc, especially the Congress, urging them to work on the ground until the last vote is cast and to focus on a clear political message that resonates with the electorate.

At the same time, the Tamil Nadu chief minister also criticised the Election Commission of India (ECI), saying the results do not whitewash the "misdeeds and reckless" actions of the poll body.

NATION UNSETTLED

Interim government struggling to contain brewing crisis

Bangladesh unrest deepens ahead of tribunal verdict on Hasina

SREERADHA DATTA

The last few days have seen an outburst of violence across Bangladesh, following former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's call to the Awami League for a lockdown as the nation awaits the verdict of the International Criminal Tribunal on charges of crimes against humanity she has been accused of, due on 17 November.

Since 5 August 2024, Bangladesh has witnessed drastic social and political changes. Periodic unrest has kept the nation unsettled, with protests and agitations becoming routine. Although Prof Yunus has announced elections by 12 February 2026, doubts and scepticism linger.

The interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus took charge on 8 August amidst the sudden developments that led to Hasina's ouster. With law and order collapsing and the economy deteriorating, urgent intervention was needed. While the government managed initial stabilisation, its attempt to pursue wide-ranging reforms through newly formed commissions created expectations it lacked the capacity to meet. Public desire for transparency, accountability and democratic renewal was strong, yet the government's overreach soon bred disillusionment and competing demands from various political and societal groups.

Complicating matters further has been the rising assertiveness of Islamic groups. The sweeping victories of the Islami Chhatra Shibir — the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami — in four major university student union elections highlighted a shift in youth sentiment. Long associated with campus violence, their win signals discontent with mainstream parties, particularly among the 45 million young voters who will shape the next national election. Many students appear disenchanted with centrist parties perceived as corrupt or nepotistic. A section of students who once leaned towards the Awami League now seems determined to keep the BNP at bay. The BNP's image has been tarnished by repeated allegations of extortion and use of muscle power, and despite the expulsion of over 1,000 workers, the party continues to struggle with credibility.

Jamaat has seized the moment, pressing for political reforms and proportional representation in Parliament even before elections — a stance at odds with the BNP's push for early polls to exploit the vacuum left by the Awami League. Political uncertainty intensified further when rumours spread regarding divisions within the Army, although these were swiftly rejected by Lt Gen Mohammad Mainur Rahman. The Army's historical role in politics, however, continues to cause public unease.

In an attempt to create national consensus, the government held several rounds of discussions, culminating in the July Charter. Signed in October by almost all major parties except the National Citizen Party (NCP), the Charter was a response to youth demands for constitutional reforms to rebalance institutions and prevent future authoritarianism. The NCP had objected to a dissent note added by the BNP, and under a new presidential order, Parliament will have 180 days to enact constitutional amendments.

Army personnel guard the International Crimes Tribunal premises in Dhaka ahead of the verdict in the crimes-against-humanity case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina. AFP FILE

Though Jamaat and the NCP wanted the Charter to be legally binding, its signing was interpreted instead as a pledge to implement reforms within the framework of the Constitution. Controversy erupted when the final published Charter omitted the dissent note, raising questions about whether the government was exceeding its mandate. Yunus's announcement that parliamentary elections and a referendum on the Charter would take place simultaneously has, for now, steadied tensions.

Parallel to domestic turmoil, Bangladesh's foreign policy shifts — particularly its warming ties with China and Pakistan — have drawn strong attention. Dhaka has signed multiple deals with Beijing and its interest in acquiring 20 Chinese J-10C fighter jets appears rushed under current conditions. Meanwhile, high-level visits by Pakistani leaders, including Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, have resulted in new agreements, including visa abolition. The docking of Pakistan's naval vessel PNS SAIF in Chittagong underscores military engagement not seen in decades. Although Islamabad is eager to rebuild relations, historical grievances still cast long shadows.

Pakistan's move to allow Bangladesh the use of Karachi port for jute exports fills the trade gap created by India's restrictions on overland jute shipments. At present, India and Bangladesh remain politically, economically and socially distant. Hasina's use of Indian media to attack Yunus and mobilise Awami supporters has further damaged fragile ties.

India's calling for inclusive elections (read as Awami League's participation) will not bear much relevance, given its erstwhile acceptance policy of the consecutive non-democratic elections that took place during Hasina's regime. Despite the ongoing chaos, election appears to remain on the horizon. But whether India and Bangladesh will continue to be weighed down by the burdens of recent history or move past it will depend on their strategic calculations. The South Asian neighbourhood dilemma endures.

(The writer is a professor at the Jindal School of International Affairs, O P Jindal Global University, Haryana))

India slams rich nations over unmet climate finance obligations

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on Saturday sharply criticised developed countries for failing to meet their climate finance obligations, warning that developing nations cannot deliver on their climate goals without "predictable, transparent and reliable" financial support.

Speaking on behalf of the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs) at the third high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance at COP30 in Brazil's Belem, India said climate finance is a critical enabler of climate action in developing countries. "Without financial resources from developed countries, developing countries cannot achieve the level of mitigation and adaptation necessary to meet the NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions)," India's negotiator Suman Chandra said.

NDCs are national climate plans under the Paris Agreement that set targets to cut emissions and adapt to climate change, guiding global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Countries are required to submit their third round of NDCs, referred to as "NDCs 3.0". India is yet to submit its updated NDCs.

India said the Paris deal created clear legal responsibilities for developed nations to provide climate finance to developing countries.

"The provisions of finance under Article 9.1 are a legal obligation of developed countries and not a voluntary act," Chandra said. However, she said, developed nations have neither honoured these obligations nor ensured transparency or predictability in the financial flows they report.

India again strongly criticised the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), or the new global finance goal adopted at COP29 in Baku last year.

It said the NCQG decision was a "suboptimal" outcome with no clear commitment from developed countries, making it impossible for developing nations to meet their NDCs. India said the NCQG "specifically refers to Article 9.3, with the legal mandate under Article 9.1 going completely unaddressed".

The outcome was "inadequate" and "incomplete", and "at best... a deflection of the responsibilities of the developed countries", it said.

At this year's climate conference, developing countries have demanded that Article 9.1 be included on the agenda. Brazil, the host, instead proposed holding informal consultations on this and three other politically sensitive topics, including unilateral trade measures such as the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, to narrow differences before a stocktake meeting on Saturday.

Trump to take legal action against BBC despite apology

LONDON, PTI: US President Donald Trump has declared that he intends to proceed with legal action against the BBC despite the British public service broadcaster apologising to him for the way his speech was edited for one of its news documentaries.

"We'll sue them. We'll sue them for anywhere between a billion and 5 billion dollars, probably sometime next week," Trump told reporters on Air Force One overnight on Saturday. "We have to do it, they've even admitted that they cheated. Not that they couldn't have not done that. They cheated. They changed the words coming out of my mouth," he said.

India, US to expand cooperation in Indo-Pacific

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Days after China inducted its most advanced aircraft carrier, the navies of India and the US have decided to conduct more complex maritime drills in the Indo-Pacific, focusing on unmanned systems, intelligence, cyber activities and space-based operations.

The two navies agreed to work closely on unmanned systems, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), cyber operations, and space-enabled maritime activities to strengthen readiness and resilience at sea, official sources said on Saturday.

In addition, there will be more advanced exercises such as the Quad-level Malabar drills, Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) activities, and the upcoming Milan exercise in the Bay of Bengal to refine joint war-fighting, logistics and sustainment capabilities.

These decisions were taken during Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi's meeting with Admiral Samuel J Paparo, Commander, Indo-Pacific Command; Admiral Stephen Koehler, Commander of the Pacific Fleet; and Lt Gen James Glynn, Commander of US Marine Forces, during his week-long visit to the US.

The objective behind expanding bilateral naval collaboration, sources said, is to keep the high seas free, open and inclusive, and to uphold a rules-based international order — an implicit reference to China's increasing muscle-flexing in the Indian Ocean region.

US rolls back tariffs on key food imports

Move amid mounting pressure to better tackle high consumer prices

WASHINGTON , AP/PTI

President Donald Trump announced on Friday that he was scrapping US tariffs on beef, coffee, tropical fruits and a wide range of other commodities — a dramatic move that comes amid mounting pressure on his administration to better tackle high consumer prices.

Trump has built his second term around imposing steep levies on goods imported into the US in the hope of encouraging domestic production.

A worker moves bags of imported onions on a pallet in Miami on Saturday. AFP

His abrupt retreat from his signature tariff policy on so many staples central to the American diet is significant, and it follows off-year elections this month in which voters cited economic concerns as their top issue, resulting in major wins for Democrats in Virginia, New Jersey and other key races across the country. "We just did a little bit of a rollback on some foods like coffee," Trump said aboard Air Force One as he travelled to Florida hours after the tariff announcement.

Pressed on whether his tariffs had contributed to rising consumer prices, Trump acknowledged, "I say they may, in some cases, have that effect. "But to a large extent they've been borne by other countries," the president added.

Meanwhile, inflation — despite Trump's repeated claims that it has vanished since he took office in January — remains elevated, further increasing pressure on US consumers.

The Trump administration has insisted that its tariffs have helped fill government coffers and were not a major factor in higher prices at grocery stores. But Democrats were quick to paint Friday's move as an admission that Trump's policies were hurting American pocketbooks.

"President Trump is finally admitting what we always knew: his tariffs are raising prices for the American people," Virginia Democratic Representative Don Beyer said in a statement.

SU DO KU X - 3737

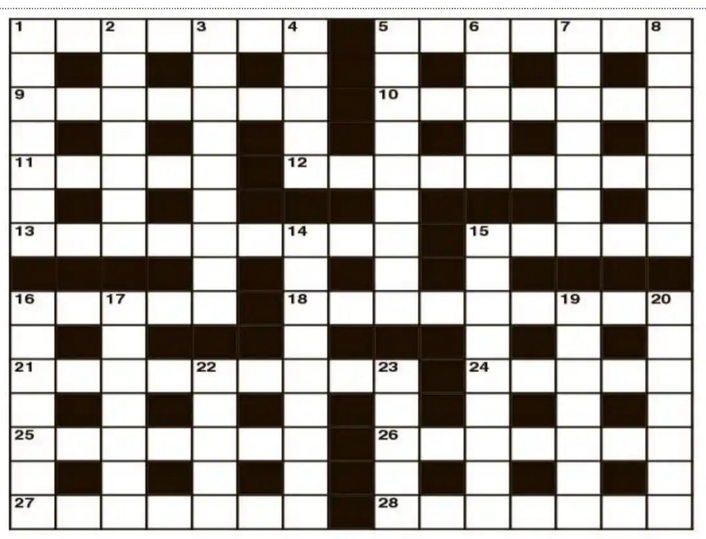
		8		2				
6		9			4			
1								3
								6
5					6	1	9	
7		3						
		2		1	9	5		
4			8					

SOLUTION TO 3736

7	6	8	4	5	1	9	2	3
4	9	2	7	8	3	5	6	1
5	3	1	2	9	6	4	8	7
2	7	9	6	3	8	1	4	5
3	4	5	1	2	9	8	7	6
1	8	6	5	7	4	2	3	9
6	5	7	8	1	2	3	9	4
8	1	3	9	4	7	6	5	2
9	2	4	3	6	5	7	1	8

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2654 ◆



ACROSS
1 Conscientious doubt (7)
5 Eternal (7)
9 Raise the siege of (7)
10 Free time (7)
11 Pollute (5)
12 On the credit side (2,3,4)
13 Bombastic (4-5)
15 Skinflint (5)
16 Of a particular area (5)
18 Imaginary delightful country (9)
21 Feel elated (4,2,3)
24 Remains of broken-down building (5)
25 Not joking (7)
26 Authentic (7)
27 Endure great heat (7)
28 Dose of liquid medicine (7)

DOWN
1 Made from whatever's available (7)
2 Gently undulating (7)
3 Abundant (9)
4 Throw out (5)
5 Without warning (3,2,4)
6 A select group (5)
7 Eager to surpass (7)
8 Scanty (7)
14 Any great Renaissance painter (3,6)
15 Notes made for future use (9)
16 Anarchic (7)
17 Unit of heat energy (7)
19 Permanent (7)
20 Sweet course (7)
22 Unconcealed (5)
23 Inflexible (5)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4014

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 8, Bar-ring 9, Patched up 13, (evenin)G-leam 14, Weedy 15, T-all-est 16, No-tions 17, Per-I-L 18, Bight (bite) 20, Serge 22, (r)Ailing 23, Slated 25, Clobber 27, L-inseed 30, Brand-Y 31, Bottle (green) 32, Be-set 35, W-her-e 36, T-eno-R (rev) 37, Twitter 39, Re-cover 41, There 42, Grill 43, Crack-ling 44, Salute-s.
DOWN: 1, Patent 2, Prim-rose 3, In two shakes 4, Baby grand 5, Scuttle 6, Hell's bells 7, Fuse 10, A-gents 11, Leg-pull 12, St-ated 19, Gat-hers 21, Rele-ase 24, Widen the gap 26, Bad service 28, Moon-stone 29, Stormed 30, B-ew-are 32, B-ring out 33, Tartly 34, S-tar-tle 38, T-aileD 40, Card.

EASY
ACROSS: 8, Perturb 9, Made ready 13, Rover 14, Clump 15, Retreat 16, Pastime 17, Tense 18, Might 20, Sprig 22, Toiled 23, Attach 25, Portray 27, Creeper 30, Setter 31, Remiss 32, Rider 35, Early 36, Seems 37, Fathead 39, Replete 41, Level 42, Ledge 43, Carnation 44, Pensive.
DOWN: 1, Leaves 2, Starling 3, Cricket team 4, Carpenter 5, Learner 6, Centimetre 7, Edge 10, Grapes 11, Curtail 12, Stitch 19, Go-ahead 21, Rooster 24, Crestfallen 26, Teeny-weeny. 28, Rebellion 29, Missive 30, Sherry 32, Ruthless 33, Redden 34, Assents 38, Endive 40, Pear.

DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
9th Floor, Vishveshwaraiah Mini Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001. Ph: 080-22868870, 22867097, 22865192
Fax : 080-22860396, e-mail : mdadcl2011@gmail.com

NO. MDACL/EST/OUTSOURCETENDER/2025-26/01/(CALL-2) Date: 13.11.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

E-tenders are invited from Human Resource Agencies as per KTPP Act 1999 Rules 2000 to provide Manpower Services to the Central Office, Divisional Offices and District Offices of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Development Corporation.
Last date for submission of tender: **24.11.2025.** Interested bidders can obtain further details and tender documents from the e-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
General Manager(P & A)
& Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/CP/JA/3824/2025-26

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
Irwin Road, Mysore-570001, Phone No. :+91-0821-2520512 (Off.), 2520803 (Fax)
Website: www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in/, E-mail: mmcrimysore@yahoo.com

No. Equipment/38/2024-25/ Date: 14.11.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Invitation of Tender for the supply of equipments to the Centre of Competence Centre of K.R. Hospital, MMC & RI, Mysuru..

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the supply of equipments to the Centre of Competence Centre of K.R. Hospital, MMC & RI, Mysuru. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **17.11.2025** and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is **16.12.2025 upto 5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected. If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/- Director and Dean
Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysore

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/1235/2025-26

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/69/2025-26/1968 Date: 15.11.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

M/s BLUEJAY COMMUNITIES LLP is Rep.by Mr.Pradeep Krishnappa has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture" Zone to "Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No:35/2 extent of 07Acre-02Guntas (Including 04Acre-36Guntas 'A' Kharab) of Chikka-kuntanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for **Agriculture zone** in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the layout in the above said land, the poor and middle Class people will get the sites for reasonable price.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for Local labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands.
4) By planned layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/3831/2025-26

SAD STATE With no takers for the ISL, Indian football is dying a slow death owing to apathetic administration

Staring at a STARK FUTURE

If the Indian Super League, which has been stuck in limbo, doesn't kick off this season, players and support staff of various clubs could be collateral damage. PTI FILE PHOTO

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Besides the muddy grounds, on the beloved green turf and at seven-a-side facilities, the Indian footballing fraternity is not happy.

On bustling city roads, at cafes and hotels and on phone calls, the people involved discuss the current situation. In every academy, you can sense fear, and in every social media post, you can feel their pain. Their beloved sport is dying a slow death and they know it.

While there have been several issues – both on and off the field – the current situation has resulted in a lack of clarity towards the future, leading to distress among its people.

To truly understand the depth of the issue, it is necessary to take a step back. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) announced Vision 2047 in January 2023, an Indian football strategic roadmap, which said that the country would be among the top four in Asia, run a league (across genders) that will be in among the top three in the continent and the footballing ecosystem will have a five-level pyramid, with 28 teams (14 Indian Super League teams and 14 I-League) as the top two layers.

However, two and a half years on, football remains stagnant, with the national federation failing miserably, having neither a top-flight league nor national team performances to show for it.

After consistently entering depths of incompetence, their most recent embarrassment has raised questions about how the players, support staff and individuals involved will make ends meet.

And according to sources, 12 Indian Super League (ISL) captains, including players like Sunil Chhetri and Sandesh Jhingan have signed a petition to be submitted to the Supreme Court regarding the current impasse.

"It really is very bad, very embarrassing. If the players are not sure about what tomorrow will bring, where they are going to play, it is not a good situation to be in," a former AIFF top brass told DHoS on the condition of anonymity.

While running a league is among the most basic responsibilities of a national federation, the AIFF now faces uncertainty over the start of its top-flight.

The seeds of destruction, however, were sown back, when the Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), the ISL organisers, had put the league 'on hold' due to uncertainty over the renewal of the Masters Rights Agreement (MRA).

Explaining further, the FSDL was AIFF's commercial partners with a 15-year-long MRA since 2010, which gave them rights to broadcast and operations of the league.

With the MRA set to expire on December 8, there were no renewal talks between the two parties and a committee was formed only in April by the AIFF.

"The renewal talks should have been done one or two years in advance. We are talking about securing the sport's future here; however, if you ask me, I was not at all surprised because of the system at the top, functions," he said.

"When I was there, that was the entire plan and we had numerous meetings. Now the federation has risked the sport, its very existence, and everyone associated with it."

While a delay in the football season was inevitable by now, the AIFF then began to find solutions to mitigate the damage to an already severely affected system.

On August 28, the AIFF and FSDL submitted a consensual resolution to the Supreme Court, with the federation also agreeing to conduct a transparent tender process for a new commercial partner, which was set to be completed by October 15. It then issued the RFP (Request for Proposal) on October 16, inviting bids to award the right to monetise the commercial rights.

Just when it seemed that there was light at the end of a dark tunnel, on November 7, an AIFF statement announced that it had not received any bids and that the Bid Evaluation Committee would meet to review the situation and deliberate on the future course of action.

"You are giving 20 days to a bidder to decide about a 15-year investment worth more than 5,000 crore; nobody would come forward. The Premier League, when it goes into a new cycle, bids a minimum of two to three years in advance. The AIFF should have at least concluded talks by the end of 2024."

While the time gap is a reason to ponder, the former AIFF Executive Committee member also felt that it had also come down to the credibility of the league and the accountability of those running it.

"If you conduct a reputational assessment of the organisation or the current state of football in the country, it shows the way for brands to come forward and for broadcasters to partner and our situations speaks for itself. As an organisation as big as the AIFF and with so much at stake, you cannot leave things to the 11th hour," he added.

"The most important reason is that there is no trust left in the system (on AIFF). Otherwise, somebody would have at least put a conditional bid."

While the ISL continues to suffer an impasse, this is no longer an issue specific to the ISL. The scheduling of India's second-tier I-League has endured the aftereffects, with the clubs with smaller budgets facing an uncertain future.

Additionally, the Indian Women's League (IWL), which is set to commence in late December, could face a potential halt, as several clubs depend on ISL and I-League for their revenue.

While the reasons for the decline of Indian football have been discussed at length, there is not much emphasis on finding a solution.

The source stated that the AIFF is too rigid to welcome new ideas and work with an open mind, questioning the national federation's credibility on the matter.

"There are solutions. But solutions can only come when it is spoken about with a clear mind. If you already have a different agenda in your thought process and want only to run things a certain way, where will the solutions come from?"

What gives more cause for concern is that the situation seems beyond repair for the coming seasons, if at all, there is be a top-tier.

"If the ISL does happen in this situation, the value is going to be 25%. And players next season will start getting, you know, less than 50% of their current salary. The economic situation takes a hit and there will be no attraction for the big numbers."

Talking about what's the way forward for Indian football, "Credibility is already significantly affected. Revival is tough because of how you regain credibility. You must decide what message you want to convey and whether people will trust what you say. That's a complex scenario because it's not easy. Individuals will come and go. However, when an institution loses trust, it is often beyond repair," he explained.

Indian football has been devoid of direction and until it finds a path out of this rabbit hole, the impasse is not expected to pass.

Arvind-ridden Darrington triumphs in Royal Calcutta Turf Club Cup

BENGALURU RESULTS

Darrington, from the stables of Irfan Ghatala and ridden by Arvind Kumar, won the Royal Calcutta Turf Club Cup, the feature event of the Bengaluru races on Saturday.

1. Vidurashwatha Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Ilia (S Pathy) Aleemuddinj 1; Tyaaraa (Mukesh Kumar) 2; Higgs Boson (Angad) 3; Agape (Sai Kiran) 4; NR: Agriam; WB: 1-1/4, 1-1/4, 4-1/2L; T: 1:15.22; Tote: Rs 25w; Rs 11, 15, 12p; Fc: Rs 94; Q: Rs 108; Shp: Rs 58; Thp: Rs 46; Tri: Rs 189 & 63; Exp: Rs 521 & 268; TB: Arjun Mangalorka; Fav: Higgs Boson.

2. Shimsha Plate - 1400M: Assurances (D Nanda) Suraj Narredu 1; Shock And Awe (RN Darshan) 2; Southernaristocrat (Antony Raj) 3; Double Scotch (Jagadeesh) 4; WB: 2-3/4, 1/2, 1-1/2L; T: 1:27.32; Tote: Rs 14w, Rs 10, 20, 15p; Fc: Rs 54; Q: Rs 59; Shp: Rs 51; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 193 & 95; Exp: Rs 741 & 385; TB: Rajesh Narredu; Fav: Assurances.

3. Hogenakkal Falls Plate - 1600M: Adelanto (Mrs Rohini Thuppal) Angad 1; Adornment (Antony Raj) 2; Larissa (Trevor Patel) 3; Larson (Jagadeesh) 4; WB: Shd, Snk, 12-3/4L; T: 1:40.05; Tote: Rs 48w; Rs 16, 15p; Fc: Rs 573; Q: Rs 103; Shp: 19; Thp: Rs 85; Tri: Rs 239 & 47; Exp: Rs 1,644 & 1,473; TB: Sriram Komandur; Fav: Larissa.

4. Hebbe Falls Plate - 1400M: Master Way (M Sridhar) Asirvatham 1; El Alamein (Pavan) 2; Gandolfini (Trevor Patel) 3; Elveden (Antony Raj) 4; WB: 6-3/4, 1-1/2L, Hd; T: 1:26.24; Tote: Rs 58w; Rs 15, 13, 10p; Fc: Rs 351; Q: 203; Shp: Rs 39; Thp: Rs 46; Tri: Rs 614 & 254; Exp: Rs 1,167 & 463; TB: Umar Sheriff; Fav: Gandolfini.

5. Sports Authority Of India Trophy - 1200M: Flight On (Rajendran) Mukesh Kumar 1; Small Dreams (Aleemuddin) 2; Felisa (Pavan) 3; Baashhah(Sachin) 4; WB: 1/4, 1-1/2, 3/4L; T: 1:12.54; Tote: Rs 27w; Rs 14, 16, 26p; Fc 108; Q: 70; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 59; Tri: Rs 698 & 399; Exp: Rs 12,922 & 7,384; TB: Prasanna Kumar; Fav: Flight On.

6. Royal Calcutta Turf Club Cup - 1600M: Darrington (J Ramesh) Arvind Kumar 1; Skagen (Trevor Patel) 2; Prince Of Wales (Mukesh Kumar) 3; Supreme Success (RN Darshan) 4; WB: Snk, Shd, 4-3/4L; T: 1:37.67; Tote: Rs 52w; Rs 15, 11p; Fc: Rs 85; Q: Rs 28; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 25; Tri: Rs 194 & 154; Ex: Rs 701 & 474; TB: Irfan Ghatala; Fav: Skagen.

7. Black Caviar Plate - 1400M: Ricardo (Haider Soomar) Aleemuddin 1; Kalamitsi (Trevor Patel) 2; Never Give In (Antony Raj) 3; Sekhmet (Rayan Ahmed) 4; WB: 3-3/4, 1-1/4L, Lnk; T: 1:24.08; Tote: Rs 106w; Rs 20, 12, 14p; Fc: Rs 376; Q: Rs 159; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 1,538 & 686; Exp: Rs 70,191; TB: Arjun Mangalorkar; Fav: Touch Of Grey.

8. Vidurashwatha Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Goddess Of War (CA Prashant) Antony Raj 1; Absolute Katrina (Sai Kiran) 2; Dr Ash (Vivek) 3; Pandurr (Jagadeesh) 4; WB: 5-1/4, 3/4, 3/4L; T: 1:13.64; Tote: Rs 13w; Rs 10, 17, 20p; Fc: Rs 49; Q: Rs 38; Shp: Rs 40; Thp: Rs 54; Tri: Rs 331 & 174; Exp: Rs 1,127 & 389; TB: Prasanna Kumar; Fav: Goddess Of War.

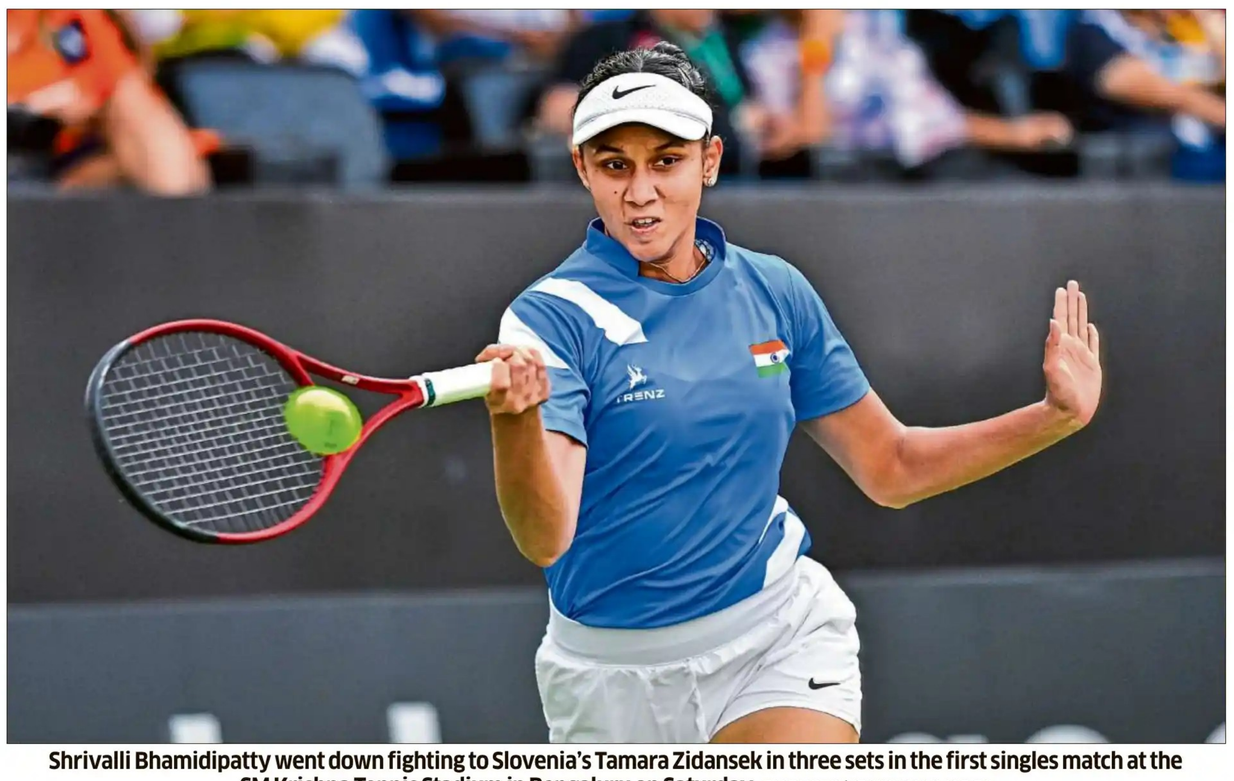
Jackpot: Rs 13,441 (38). **Runner-up:** Rs 4,378 (50). **I treble:** Rs 805 (12). **II treble:** Rs 1,152 (15).

TENNIS BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

India's qualifier dream ends

Slovenia beat hosts 2-1 to claim Group G honours, progress to Qualifiers

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS



Shrivalli Bhamidipatty went down fighting to Slovenia's Tamara Zidansek in three sets in the first singles match at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/KRISHNAKUMAR PS

India's hopes of reaching next year's Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers came crashing down on Saturday as much higher-ranked Slovenia wrapped up the Group G playoff 2-1 here.

After a fighting three-setter by Shrivalli Bhamidipatty went Slovenia's way 6-3, 4-6, 6-1, the pressure fell on Sahaja Yamalapalli but the world No. 309 couldn't stop Kaja Juvan (No. 98) from sealing the tie 6-4, 6-2.

Indian doubles pair of Ankita Raina and Prarthana Thombare gave the home crowd something to cheer about as they defeated Dalila Jakupovic and Nika Radisic 1-6, 6-3, 10/7 in super tie-breaker.

With that, Slovenia were through to the Qualifiers, making Sunday's India-Netherlands match irrelevant.

To make matters trickier for India, the SM Krishna Stadium courts, already known for their high bounce, played perfectly into Slovenia's hands. Both Zidansek and Juvan leaned heavily on topspin-loaded shots, often kicking the ball up above shoulder height, something that naturally troubled the Indian players. It was a tactical edge Slovenia squeezed to the maximum.

In the much-anticipated tie of the day, India's No. 1 Sahaja had the crowd roaring from first ball and for a while, it looked like she could rattle Juvan. The opening set turned into a tight, serve-dominated battle at 2-2, with both players going after each other's second serves. At 3-4, the Slovenian finally cracked open the first real chance, digging deep to earn a break point and converting amidst loud boos from the stands.

But Sahaja broke right back for 4-4, showing off her defensive grit from the baseline, getting everything back despite Juvan's heavy kickers jumping awkwardly. But just when the set seemed poised for a tiebreak, Sahaja's serve abandoned her.

A string of errors handed Juvan the chance to serve for the set, and she powered through with flat, deep returns to take it 6-4.

The second set began with promise but unravelled quickly.

Shrivalli fights hard

Earlier, Shrivalli took the court against 2021 French Open semifinalist Zidansek and had a rough start. The Slovenian came out swinging, breaking immediately and racing to a 4-0 lead as Shrivalli's unforced errors piled up.

The Indian finally held after a three-deuce game and suddenly flipped the script by breaking Zidansek next, helped by the crowd erupting at every point. But Zidansek steadied herself to take the set 6-3.

Shrivalli came alive in the second set, breaking Zidansek right away for 1-0 and then holding for 2-0 with some of her best serving of the day.

Result: India It to Slovenia 1-2 (Shrivalli Bhamidipatty It to Tamara Zidansek 3-6, 6-4, 1-6; Sahaja Yamalapalli It to Kaja Juvan 4-6, 1-6; Ankita Raina/Prarthana Thombare bt Dalila Jakupovic/Nika Radisic 1-6, 6-3, 10/7).

Champ Sinner sinks de Minaur

TURIN, ITALY, AFP

Jannik Sinner continued his mastery over Alex de Minaur on Saturday with a straight-sets win to reach the ATP Finals championship match for the third year in a row.

Sinner broke late in the first set and then pulled away from De Minaur to complete a 7-5, 6-2 win -- his 13th in as many meetings with the Australian.

The Italian world No. 2 has yet to drop a service game en route to the final. He will try to defend his title on Sunday against top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz or Felix Auger-Aliassime.

"It is the last event of the year and it is great to finish in this way," said Sinner.

"It was a very tough match, especially at the beginning of the first set. I felt like he was serving great, very precise.

"In the second set, I broke very early and then my level rose. I tried to be a bit more aggressive and it worked well but it was a tough match."

Sinner has won his last 18 sets played in Turin, where he beat Taylor Fritz in last year's final. The four-time Grand Slam champion is on a 30-match winning streak on indoor hard courts.

The 24-year-old Sinner hasn't dropped a set at the ATP Finals since losing the 2023 final to Novak Djokovic.

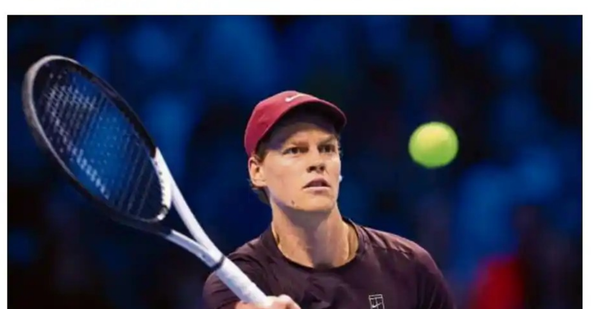
"Making the final for three consecutive years means a lot to me," said Sinner.

"It is a great atmosphere for me to play tennis and a great place for me to close this beautiful season. Tomorrow I will enjoy and try my best to get the best possible result."

De Minaur fought off two break points in the opening game of the semi-final but then failed to convert any of the three he carved out in Sinner's first service game.

The Australian resisted again when Sinner threatened to break in the seventh and ninth games, but the second seed eventually struck the key blow at 5-5 and snatched the first set.

Sinner surged 4-0 ahead in the second set before wrapping up his ninth straight win at the tournament.



Italy's Jannik Sinner returns during his semifinal win over Australia's Alex de Minaur. REUTERS

Trakila for May Fowl Cup

KOLKATA RESULTS

Aashay Doctor-trained Trakila, to be ridden by Trevor Patel, will garner the maximum support in the small field of four runners in the fray for the May Fowl Cup, the feature event of the Kolkata races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs at the races on Sunday. The first race starts at 1 pm.

1. Regal Connection Handicap - 1200M: Live It Love It 1, Diamond Gold 2, Amalfitana 3.
2. Right Ahead Handicap - 1600M: Soul Aquarian 1, Carnation 2, Made In Heaven 3.
3. Arabian Prince Handicap - 2000M: Goodwill 1, Champagnesupernova 2, Indian Jack 3.
4. Ocean And Beyond Handicap - 1100M: Sky Force 1, Kay Star 2, Mathangi 3.
5. May Fowl Cup - 1400M: Trakila 1, High Command 2, Black Eagle 3.
6. Cambridge Handicap (Div I) - 1400M: Midnight Blue 1, Rosalia 2, Noorie 3.
7. Cambridge Handicap (Div II) - 1400M: Victorious Omen 1, Enchanting 2, Queen Of Mafia 3.

Day's best: Goodwill.
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7.
I treble: 2, 3 & 4.
II treble: 5, 6 & 7.

Indian boxers aim to finish season on a high

GREATER NOIDA, PTI: Indian boxers will look to end the season on a high while also targeting valuable ranking points when they step into the ring at the World Boxing Cup Finals beginning here on Sunday.

With World Boxing taking over as the international governing body of the sport, it introduced the World Boxing Cup series earlier this year, culminating in the Finals.

Boxers earn ranking points across all major tournaments, which plays a role in determining the seedings.

With the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games scheduled next year, these points become critical.

As per the format, medallists from the three World Boxing Cups held earlier this year, along with top-ranked pugilists, qualify for the Finals.

India has been granted entries in all 20 weight categories.

Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen **(in pic)** (51kg) headlines the women's squad. The Telangana boxer, whose only international outing this year was a quarterfinal finish at the World Championships, will look to regain rhythm.

Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre teams enter title round

BENGALURU, DHNS: It was double joy for Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre as both their teams scored dominant wins to enter the boys' and girls' final respectively at the NRJ State Junior Aquatic Waterpolo Championship in Mysuru on Saturday.

In the boys' semifinal, NAC raced away to a 10-2 victory and will meet Star Aquatics who defeated SwimLife 14-8 in the other last-four encounter.

The NAC girls put on an even superior show as they trounced Seaworld Aquatics 19-4 to moved into the title clash. Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre is the other team in the final after they beat Swimlife 20-8.

Results: (Semifinals): Boys: NAC: 10 bt BAC: 2; Star: 14 bt SwimLife: 8.
Girls: NAC: 19 bt Seaworld: 4; BAC: 20 vs SwimLife: 8.

Gill taken to hospital for neck stiffness

MADHU JAWALI
KOLKATA, DHNS

India were dealt a big blow on the second day of the first Test that left Shubman Gill's participation in the remainder of the match highly doubtful. The Indian skipper lasted just balls before walking off the field after he suffered a whiplash following a slog-swept four off the third ball he faced. The right-hander didn't return to bat on Saturday as India folded for 189 in reply to South Africa's first innings score of 159.

While he remained under the care of the Indian team's medical staff, he was admitted to a hospital here at the end of day's play with the 26-year-old expected to remain under observation there.

The whiplash was a result of a neck spasm he woke up with on Saturday morning, and team's bowling coach Morne Morkel ruled out any fitness-related issue for the injury.

"I think we first need to determine how he got neck stiffness, maybe just a bad night's sleep," he told reporters at the end of day's play. "I don't think it's, or we can put it down to the workload. Shubham is a very fit guy, he looks after himself very well, so it's just unfortunate this morning that he woke up with a stiff neck and that carried him into the day, which was crucial for us. Another sort of partnership with him batting around was going to be needed for us at the time, and yeah, just bad timing."

India's captain Shubman Gill walks back to the pavilion after injuring his neck on Saturday. AFP

India in front as wickets tumble like nine pins

Veteran Jadeja turns it the hosts' way with 4/29 effort

MADHU JAWALI
KOLKATA, DHNS

An early finish looks imminent after an astonishing 15 wickets tumbled on Day 2 of the first Test, with the Eden Gardens pitch continuing to quiz batters from both teams and offering no easy answers in return.

By the end of a frenetic Saturday in which the game moved at breakneck speed, India seized firm control. After scraping together a narrow 30-run first-innings lead -- managing 189 all out in response to South Africa's 159 -- the hosts' bowlers tore through visiting top order to leave them reeling at 93/7, a slim lead of just 63 heading into Day 3.

India also suffered a big blow when skipper Shubman Gill, who woke up with neck spasm, walked off the field after getting a whiplash following a slog-swept four. His deputy Rishabh Pant led in his absence.

At the centre of India's dominance was Ravindra Jadeja (27, 4/29), turning in yet another match-defining all-round performance. After dragging India to a total that looked inadequate at first glance, the left-arm spinner made the most of the helpful surface, weaving his familiar magic with the ball.

Resuming at 37/1, India inched forward cautiously. KL Rahul (39) and Washington Sundar (29) battled hard for every run, their progress slowed by a pitch that kept spitting out surprises -- sharp turn one ball, uneven bounce the next. Though both batters tried to break free with the occasional big hit, neither ever looked fully settled during their association of 57 runs. In the context of the match, though, it was a vital contribution.

To their credit, South Africa's bowlers rose to the challenge of a surface that demanded precision over flair. No one embodied that discipline better than Simon Harmer (4/30). In an uninterrupted spell of 14.2-3-30-4 on the second day, the veteran off-spinner struck vital blows -- Washington, Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel and Axar Patel -- to ensure India didn't run away with the game.

Despite losing Pant just minutes before lunch, they were placed relatively comfortably at 138/4 when the teams broke for lunch. The middle session, however, saw the Indian batting come unstuck as it lost five wickets for the addition of 51 runs with Harmer in the thick of things.

The unpredictable bounce and the inconsistent bounce never allowed the batters to feel "in" and that sort of left them confused about their approach -- to attack or to grind? In the process some fell while playing safe and other when attacking.

Pacer Marco Jansen hastened the end with two wickets before Harmer provided the finishing touches with Axar's dismissal.

While the tourists' changeroom would have been happy to restrict India's lead to 30, their second innings performance would have turned the mood in the camp rather somber. Evidently, it wasn't an easy wicket to survive but the Proteas' batters showed little stomach for a fight, keeling over meekly with Jadeja at the forefront of their collapse.

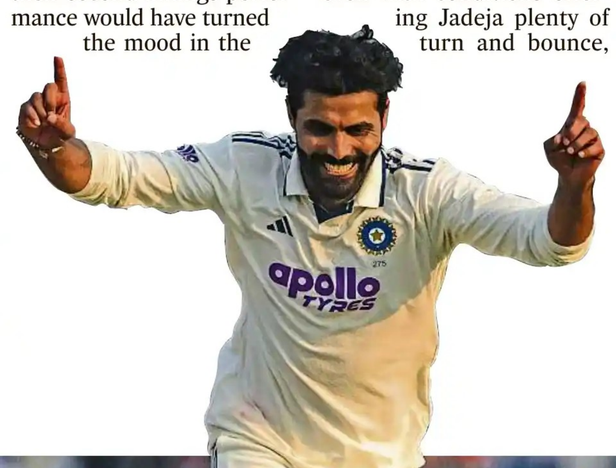
Having taken a back seat on the opening day as Jasprit Bumrah stole the spotlight, even with conditions offering Jadeja plenty of turn and bounce, the 36-year-old came roaring into the contest, dictating the tempo and holding the centre stage.

Jadeja isn't a big turner of the ball, but his understanding of the conditions and what needs to be executed, make him so special in these pitches.

After a rather delayed introduction into the attack, Jadeja, in an unbroken spell of 13-3-29-4, swung the match in India's favour.

Even as skipper Temba Bavuma hung around with a battling 29, batters at other end deserted him in quick succession.

They would be hoping to set up at least a 100-plus target to fancy their chances while India would want to wrap up the innings early in the morning and chase as small a target as possible on a deteriorating wicket, especially with doubts over Gill returning to bat.



India's Ravindra Jadeja celebrates after dismissing South Africa's Tristan Stubbs on the second day of the first Test at the Eden Gardens on Saturday. AFP

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA (I INNINGS): 159 ALL OUT

INDIA (I INNINGS; O/N: 37/1):

Jaiswal b Jansen (27b, 35m, 3x4)	12
Rahul c Markram b Maharaj (119b, 194m, 4x4, 1x6)	39
Washington c Markram b Harmer (82b, 128m, 2x4, 1x6)	29
Gill (retd hurt) (3b, 2m, 1x4)	4
Pant c Verreynne b Bosch (24b, 42m, 2x4, 2x6)	27
Jadeja lbw Harmer (45b, 65m, 3x4)	27
Jurel c & b Harmer (14b, 20m, 3x4)	14
Axar c Jansen b Harmer (45b, 68m, 2x4)	16
Kuldeep c Verreynne b Jansen (8b, 6m)	1
Siraj b Jansen (9b, 21m)	1
Bumrah (not out) (3b, 11m)	1
Extras (B-9, LB-2, NB-5, W-2)	18
Total (all out, 62.2 overs)	**189**

Fall of wickets: 1-18 (Jaiswal), 2-75 (Washington), 3-109 (Rahul), 4-132 (Pant), 5-153 (Jurel), 6-171 (Jadeja), 7-172 (Kuldeep), 8-187 (Siraj).
Bowling: Jansen 15-4-35-3 (w-1, nb-3), Mulder 5-1-15-0 (nb-2), Maharaj 16-1-66-1, Bosch 11-4-32-1, Harmer 15.2-4-30-4.

SOUTH AFRICA (II INNINGS):

Rickelton lbw Kuldeep (23b, 28m, 1x4)	11
Markram c Jurel b Jadeja (23b, 33m)	4
Mulder c Pant b Jadeja (30b, 34m, 1x4)	11
Bavuma (batting) (78b, 3x4)	29
de Zorzi c Jurel b Jadeja (2b, 2m)	2
Stubbs b Jadeja (18b, 26m)	5
Verreynne b Axar (16b, 17m, 1x4)	9
Jansen c Rahul b Kuldeep (16b, 1x6)	13
Bosch (batting) (4b)	1
Extras (LB-8)	8
Total (for 7 wkts, 35 overs)	**93**

Fall of wickets: 1-18 (Rickelton), 2-25 (Markram), 3-38 (Mulder), 4-40 (de Zorzi), 5-60 (Stubbs), 6-75 (Verreynne), 7-91 (Jansen).
Bowling: Bumrah 6-1-14-0, Axar 11-0-30-1, Kuldeep 5-1-12-2, Jadeja 13-3-29-4.

Morkel surprised by how quick Eden track has deteriorated

MADHU JAWALI
KOLKATA, DHNS

27 wickets have tumbled in the first two days of the first Test at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. PTI

Given their current position in the match, the Indians wouldn't be complaining too much but their bowling coach Morne Morkel agreed that even the home team was caught by surprise by the manner the Eden Gardens' pitch has deteriorated in the opening Test against South Africa.

The first two days of the match have seen 27 wickets fall with spinners taking most of them but pacers haven't been a mere sideshow which is generally the case in these parts of the world.

"Looking at it (the pitch) the day before the game, in the morning of the game, I thought we were all hoping that when we watched that first couple of hours it was a good wicket," said Morkel when asked if his team would roll out pitches of similar nature going forward. "So we did see it deteriorate quite quickly, which was unexpected. But I think that's the beauty sometimes of playing in the subcontinent. You need to be able to adapt. You need to be able to react to conditions quite quickly.

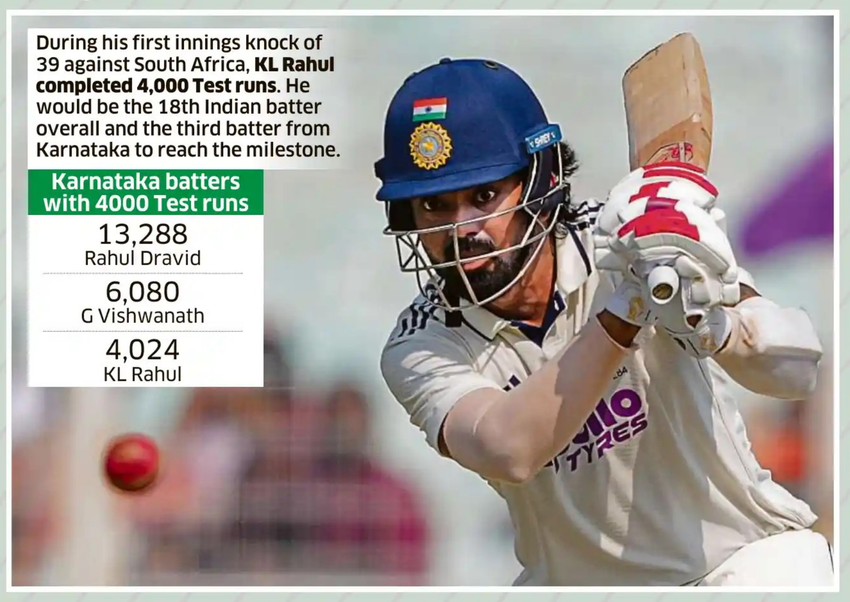
"And that's a sort of challenge we're facing here at the moment. So in terms of preferences, you know, obviously we want to play to our strengths. In saying that, we've got quality with seam and spin. So we cover both bases. So for us, it's just a matter of what is in front of us and to play that as best as possible," he explained.

The former South African pacer was in sync with the opinion that the surface doesn't allow the batters to settle down and a proactive approach wasn't a bad option.

"If you look at the nature of how the ball was behaving the entire day... There were a couple of balls that just spun past the bat quite sharply, but I think Temba (Bavuma) also showed again tonight that it is battable and if you can rotate strike and you've got a solid game plan, you can sort of get through tough periods.

"So it's just a matter of fighting through those tough periods, not to give your wicket away. But I think every batter will have a different sort of game plan on how they want to play on this surface. I think it's up to the individual to work out what is his best way of scoring; is he going to be attacking, is he looking to take the scoreboard over, is he looking to sweep, or is he looking to just try and replay the strike? I think everybody's got their unique and different strengths, it's just up to the batter to work out which is going to be the best format for him to score," Morkel offered.

Beyond boundaries



During his first innings knock of 39 against South Africa, **KL Rahul completed 4,000 Test runs**. He would be the 18th Indian batter overall and the third batter from Karnataka to reach the milestone.

Karnataka batters with 4000 Test runs

13,288	Rahul Dravid
6,080	G Vishwanath
4,024	KL Rahul

Rishabh Pant's two sixes in India's first innings made him India's highest six-hitter in Test cricket.

Most sixes by Indian batters in Test cricket

Sixes	Batter
92*	Rishabh Pant
91	Virender Sehwag
88	Rohit Sharma
80	Ravindra Jadeja
78	MS Dhoni

Shubman Gill retired hurt on 4 in India's first innings. He would be only the second Indian captain after Dilip Vengsarkar (against West Indies in 1987 in Kolkata) to retire hurt and not resume his innings thereafter.

Ravindra Jadeja too completed 4000 Test runs later, becoming the 19th Indian batter to reach the milestone. He joined an elite club of all-rounders to do the Test double of 4000 runs and 300 wickets.

4000 runs & 300 wickets in Test cricket

Runs	Wkts	Player
5248	434	Kapil Dev (Ind)
5200	383	Ian Botham (Eng)
4531	362	Daniel Vettori (NZ)
4017	**342**	**Ravindra Jadeja (Ind)**

Compiled by Arun Gopalakrishnan

Jadeja goes home to Rajasthan; CSK buy Samson

Royal Challengers retain their core; KKR have the biggest purse

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

There were no major surprises as Royal Challengers Bengaluru chose continuity, retaining the core of the players who engineered a historic maiden Indian Premier League title triumph this June.

Karnataka captain Mayank Agarwal, who came in as a replacement for the injured Devdutt Padikkal just before the playoffs and featured in the pulsating final against his former team Punjab Kings, spinning all-rounder Liam Livingstone and South Africa pacer Lungi Ngidi were three of the big names released by RCB on Saturday – the deadline for the franchises to announce the retention list ahead of the mini auction scheduled in Abu Dhabi on December 16.

In total, the defending champions released eight players, leaving them with a purse of Rs 16.4 crore at the auction where they'll be looking just to add back-ups for the frontline options that look completely sorted.

"We have been able to retain a really strong squad with, obviously, a great recent history of playing winning cricket and playing some outstanding cricket," said head coach Andy Flower in a media statement.

"I feel for the players that we are releasing, because I am pretty sure they loved the experience as much as I did last year. Of course, we will look to strengthen our squad, but in saying that, we are comfortable with retaining a strong base and a strong core of the team and the squad. So there is less movement than there was in the big auction last year."

The biggest shake-up during the transfer window was five-time champions Chennai Super Kings trading their talismanic all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran to Rajasthan Royals. The 2008 champions, in turn, traded their skipper Sanju Samson to CSK. Jadeja thus returns home, having been a part of Royals' triumph in 2008.

Three-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders off-loaded as many as nine players, but importantly gave themselves the maximum purse of Rs 64.30 crore.

Some of the major names released were big-hitting all-rounder Andre Russell, whose stock is on the wane, express pacer Anrich Nortje, smashing opener Quinton de Kock and all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer.

Super Kings, despite roping in Samson for Rs 18 crore, have Rs 43.40 crore in their kitty after letting go of a bunch of players.

Heavyweights CSK haven't qualified for the playoffs the last couple of seasons and they'll be looking to bolster the squad in key areas, especially in the all-rounders' department.

Punjab Kings, who played some electrifying cricket under the captaincy of Shreyas Iyer en route to reaching the final, released five players with big-hitting duo Glenn Maxwell and Josh Inglis being the major casualties.

How the franchises stack up

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU
Retained players: Rajat Patidar, Virat Kohli, Phil Salt, Krunal Pandya, Josh Hazlewood, Tim David, Jitesh Sharma, Devdutt Padikkal, Nuwan Thushara, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jacob Bethell, Romario Shepherd, Suyash Sharma, Swapnil Singh, Yash Dayal, Abhinandan Singh, Rasikh Dar.
Purse remaining: Rs 16.4 crore.

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
Retained players: Abdul Samad, Aiden Markram, Akash Singh, Arjun Tendulkar (traded in from MI), Arshin Kulkarni, Avesh Khan, Ayush Badoni, Digvesh Rathi, Himmat Singh, Manimaran Siddharth, Matthew Breetzke, Mayank Yadav, Mohammed Shami (traded in from SRH), Mitchell Marsh, Mohsin Khan, Nicholas Pooran, Prince Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Shahbaz Ahmed
Purse remaining: Rs 22.95 crore

MUMBAI INDIANS
Retained players: Shardul Thakur (traded in from LSG), Sherfane Rutherford (traded in from GT), Mayank Markande (traded in from KKR), AM Ghazanfar, Ashwani Kumar, Corbin Bosch, Deepak Chahar, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Mitchell Santner, Naman Dhir, Raghu Sharma, Raj Bawa, Robin Minz, Rohit Sharma, Ryan Rickelton, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Trent Boult, Will Jacks
Purse remaining: Rs 2.75 crore

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Retained players: Donovan Ferreira (traded in from DC), Ravindra Jadeja (traded in from CSK), Sam Curran (traded in from CSK), Dhruv Jurel, Jofra Archer, Kwena Maphaka, Lhuan-Dre Pretorius, Nandre Burger, Riyan Parag, Sandeep Sharma, Shimron Hetmyer, Shubham Dubey, Tushar Deshpande, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Yudhvir Singh
Purse remaining: Rs 16.05 crore

PUNJAB KINGS
Retained players: Arshdeep Singh, Azmatullah Omarzai, Harnoor Pannu, Harpreet Brar, Lockie Ferguson, Marco Jansen, Marcus Stoinis, Mitch Owen, Musheer Khan, Nehal Wadhera, Prabhsimran Singh, Priyansh Arya, Pyla Avinash, Shashank Singh, Shreyas Iyer, Suryansh Shedge, Vishnu Vinod, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Xavier Bartlett, Yash Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal
Purse remaining: Rs 11.5 crore

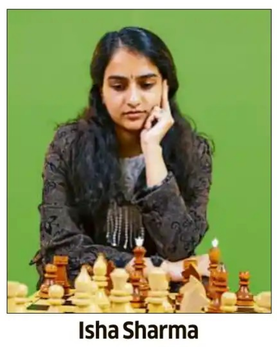
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Retained players: Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), Ayush Mhatre, M.S. Dhoni, Dewald Brevis, Urvil Patel, Shivam Dube, Jamie Overton, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Noor Ahmad, Khaleel Ahmed, Anshul Kamboj, Gurjapneet Singh, Shreyas Gopal, Mukesh Choudhary, Nathan Ellis, Sanju Samson (traded from RR)
Purse remaining: Rs. 43.40 crore

DELHI CAPITALS
Retained players: Nitish Rana (traded in from RR), Abishek Porel, Ajay Mandal, Ashutosh Sharma, Axar Patel, Dushmantha Chameera, Karun Nair, KL Rahul, Kuldeep Yadav, Madhav Tiwari, Mitchell Starc, Sameer Rizvi, T Natarajan, Tripurana Vijay, Tristan Stubbs, Vipraj Nigam
Purse remaining: Rs 21.80 crore

GUJARAT TITANS
Retained players: Anuj Rawat, Glenn Phillips, Gurnoor Brar, Ishant Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Jos Buttler, Kagiso Rabada, Kumar Kushagra, Manav Suthar, Mohammed Siraj, Arshad Khan, Nishant Sindhu, Prasidh Krishna, R Sai Kishore, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid Khan, B Sai Sudharsan, M Shahrukh Khan, Shubman Gill, Washington Sundar
Purse remaining: Rs 12.90 crore

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Retained players: Ajinkya Rahane, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Anukul Roy, Harshit Rana, Manish Pandey, Ramandeep Singh, Rinku Singh, Rovman Powell, Sunil Narine, Umran Malik, Vaibhav Arora, Varun Chakravarthy
Purse remaining: Rs 64.30 crore

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Retained players: Abhishek Sharma, Aniket Verma, Brydon Carse, Eshan Malinga, Harsh Dubey, Harshal Patel, Heinrich Klaasen, Ishan Kishan, Jaydev Unadkat, Kamindu Mendis, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Pat Cummins, R Smaran, Travis Head, Zeeshan Ansari
Purse remaining: Rs 25.50 crore



Isha Sharma

Isha is Karnataka's first WGM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka chess player Isha Sharma created history on Saturday by becoming the first Woman Grandmaster from the state.

The 25-year-old Isha from Belthangady in Dakshina Kannada district, who became the Woman International Master in 2020, secured her final WGM norm at the IM Circuit tournament in Subotica, Serbia over the weekend. She had achieved her first WGM norm in Slovakia in 2022 and the second norm in Morocco in 2023.

Messi scores in routine win

LUANDA, AFP: Football icon Lionel Messi created the first goal and scored the second as world champions Argentina beat Angola 2-0 in an international friendly in Luanda on Friday.

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY

Karnataka seek max gains

Mayank & Co hope to heap more misery on Chandigarh in Hubballi

BENGALURU, DHNS

When Mayank Agarwal walks out to the middle for the toss at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium in Hubballi on Sunday, he'll have a stiff challenge in hand: How to make the most of Karnataka's second home game and take six points, if not seven.

However, one thing is for sure: It is not going to be easy. While Chandigarh have had a subpar showing so far in their four Elite Group B Ranji Trophy matches with just a solitary point next to their name, they do possess good players in their armoury, including Manan Vohra, Nishank Birla and Vishu Kashyap, among others, who can give Karnataka a run for their money in their own backyard.

This season, Karnataka have majorly relied on Karun Nair (503 runs) and Shreyas Gopal (228 runs & 17 wickets) to lead the way, managing to pocket 14 points in four games. With some crucial matches against Madhya Pradesh and Punjab still to be played in the group, they will look to capitalise on a wobbly Chandigarh side.

An out-of-sorts Shrijith KL really needs to up the tempo when Karnataka take on Chandigarh in their fifth Ranji Trophy group clash in Hubballi from Sunday. DH FILE PHOTO

Karnataka's trump card for this game and beyond is their solid middle-order, in which Karun, Smaran R and Abhinav Manohar have already performed starring roles.

The bowling attack also seems to be well-oiled and functioning smoothly. After a long injury lay-off, Vidwath Kaverappa has been firing on all cylinders.

With Abhilash Shetty being offered the responsibility of the new ball, the left-arm seamer has also been relatively effective.

However, the main cause of concern for Karnataka will be runs from their top-order, not named Agarwal. While the skipper's opening partners (Nikin Jose and Aneesh KV) have been involved in a bit of a musical chair, courtesy of form, Shrijith KL's inconsistency at a crucial No. 3 spot has not been of great help either.

While both Aneesh and Shrijith are expected to get a longer rope, they will hope to repay the faith shown by the selectors.

A batting-friendly surface probably awaits the teams in Hubballi and the hosts' only expected change would be Shikhar Shetty for M Ventakesh, if the surface is slightly on the drier side.

Karnataka's last meeting with Chandigarh was in February 2024, also in Hubballi. The hosts managed to walk away with just three points on the back of an all-round show from Vyshak Vijaykumar, but will be withouts his services.

On the other hand, Chandigarh can take some consolation from the fact that they have shown glimpses of promise in their four games so far.

Squads: Karnataka: Mayank Agarwal (capt), Nikin Jose, Karun Nair, Smaran R, Shrijith KL, Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas Gopal, Vidwath Kaverappa, Abhilash Shetty, Ventakesh M, Kruthik Krishna, Mohsin Khan, Shikhar Shetty, Aneesh KV, Vidyadhar Patil
Chandigarh: Manan Vohra (capt), Amrit Lubana, Nikhil Thakur, Shivam Bhambari, Arjit Singh, Arjun Azad, Taranpreet Singh, Vishnu Kashyap, Gaurav Puri, Anirudh Kanwar, Jagjit Singh, Mohit Soni, Raj Bawa, Ankit Kaushik, Nishunk Birla
Other Group B fixtures: Punjab vs Maharashtra (New Chandigarh); Madhya Pradesh vs Kerala (Indore); Saurashtra vs Goa (Rajkot)

Erigaisi knocks out Aronian

Harikrishna to play tiebreak after Martinez draw

MANISHA MOHITE

Arjun Erigaisi played brilliantly to defeat and eliminate two-time World Cup winner Levon Aronian and advance to the quarterfinals of the FIDE World Cup which is being played at Resort Rio in Goa. The first game between Arjun and Aronian had fizzled out into a hard played draw.

Pentala Harikrishna, however, had to stay content with a second consecutive draw against Jose Martinez Alcantara and will have to fight it out in the tie-break on Sunday to move into the last eight.

In other relevant outcomes, Nodirbek Yakkubaev of Uzbekistan defeated Gabriel Sargissian while his compatriot Jakovir Sindharov also advanced to the quarterfinal.

Arjun Erigaisi

GM Wei Yi of China, defeated GM Samuel Sevian of USA in 73 moves and will play Arjun in the quarterfinal, scheduled on Monday. Incidentally, Arjun and Wei are the only players to advance amongst the top 10 seeds here.

Alexander Dovchenko after doing all the hard work missed the route to victory against Li Quang Liem and will have to fight for survival. The top three finishers in this event will qualify for the eight player Candidates tournament to decide the Challenger for the World Champion D Gukesh.

The World Cup began with 206 players, 24 of them Indians, but it has trickled down to just Arjun and Hari. The huge crowd gathered outside the resort to get a glimpse of their chess heroes promptly broke into a loud chorus chanting 'Arjun, Arjun' as he exited the playing hall.

Arjun just didn't win but won it in style, a dazzling knight sacrifice leaving Aronian with no option but to resign! Going the Italian way, one of the oldest Openings in Chess, the player belted out the early moves in accordance with opening theory before Aronian played a new move on the 17th turn.

Round 5.2 Results: GM Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara (Mex) drew with GM Pentala Harikrishna 1-1; GM Levon Aronian (USA) lt to GM Arjun Erigaisi 0.5-1.5; GM Frederik Svane (Ger) drew with GM Sindharov Javokhir (Uzb) 0.5-1.5; GM Daniil Dubov drew with GM San Shankland (USA) 1-1; GM Le Quang Liem (Vie) drew with Alexander Dovchenko 1-1; GM Nodirbek Yukubboev bt GM Gabriel Sargissian 1.5-0.5; GM Aleksey Grebnev drew with GM Andrey Esipenko 1-1; GM Wei Yi bt GM Samuel Sevian 1.5-0.5.

Sen crashes out in semis at Japan Open

KUMAMOTO (JAPAN), PTI

Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen saw his fine run snapped after a draining three-game semifinal defeat to Japan's world No. 13 Kenta Nishimoto at the Kumamoto Masters Japan on Saturday.

Seventh seed Sen, who endured a lean patch before rediscovering form with a runner-up finish at the Hong Kong Open, lost 19-21 21-14 12-21 to sixth seed Nishimoto in a 77-minute battle.

Sen, the 2021 World Championship bronze medallist, came into the match with a 3-2 head-to-head lead but had lost their previous encounter at the Indonesia Masters earlier this year.

Sen recovered from an opening-game setback to force a decider but looked completely out of sorts in the third game.

High Court of Karnataka
High Court Buildings, Bengaluru-560 001
No. HCA-II/6/2017 Date: 13.11.2025

QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

Quotations are invited by the undersigned from the interested Public/Firms **for allotment of one vacant Kiosk adjacent to Nandini Parlour in the premises of the High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru for sale of Juice/Bakery Items/Sprouts/Pasta/Cut Fruits, Etc. on License basis.** Quotations can be submitted **within 5.00 PM on 02.12.2025.** Quotations will be opened by the undersigned **on 03.12.2025 at 12.30 PM.** EMD of **Rs. 5,000/-** in the form of DD drawn in favour of **"The Registrar General, High Court of Karnataka"** payable at Bengaluru should be enclosed. Further information and details can be obtained by contacting the Office of the undersigned.

Sd/- (V. Nagaraja)
Registrar (Administration)
DIPR/DD-C.P/3834/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA TRADE PROMOTION ORGANISATION
KTPO TRADE CENTRE BANGALORE
Plot No. 121, Road No.5, EPIP 2nd Phase, Whitefield Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560 066. Ph.: 080-41687567, 080-41453506
Web : www.ktpo.karnataka.gov.in E-mail : mdktpo@gmail.com
No: KTPO/Manpower/Staff/2025-26 Date: 14.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement)

Tender is invited through e-procurement portal for Selection of Manpower agency to perform Maintenance and Administrative works at KTPO, Whitefield under two cover system as per KTPP Act, 1999. The Tender need to be submitted through e-procurement portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **(a)** Uploading Tender Document in the e-portal: **14.11.2025.** **(b)** Last date & time for submission of tender: **29.11.2025 at 5:00 PM.** **(c)** Date of Pre-bid meeting: **19.11.2025 at 3.00 PM.** **(d)** Date & time for opening the Tender: **02.12.2025 at 11.30 AM.** **(e) Place of opening of tender: Office of the Managing Director, Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation Plot no. 121, Road no 5, EPIP 2nd Phase Whitefield Industrial Area, Whitefield Bengaluru-560 066.**

Sd/- Managing Director

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Tender Notification (Though KPP Portal)

Providing Consultancy Services for obtaining environmental clearance for "Proposed Housing Scheme Project" at Sy. No. 10 and others of Byalalu Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

Notification No. KHB/CE/PARIVESH/Byalalu/KHB/2025-26/SE0315 Date: 14.11.2025

Last date for submission of Bid is on 29.11.2025 upto 4.00 PM

For further information contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Tel: 080-22273511. Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/3827/AKAR/2024-25

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
MESCOM
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangalore - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885796 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No: MESCOM/IT/34/IT Date: 13.11.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)

MESCOM invites the tender from the prospective bidders for **"Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Desktop PCs to MESCOM Offices"** vide Tender Enquiry No: **MESCOM/2025-26/IND0146.**

The interested eligible bidders may log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **15.11.2025.** For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at **+91 - 8046010000 / 8068948777** or e-mail address: **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/-,
Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Projects)
DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1093/25-26 dt: 15.11.2025

For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Telephone : 080-22024000
e-mail : mdkrdcl@gmail.com, cekrdcl@gmail.com Website: http://www.krdcl.in
No. KRDCL/IFB /2025-26/19 Date: 15.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION ON TURNKEY BASIS (Call-4)
(through KPP Portal)

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) invites bids for **Construction of High-level Minor Bridge across Krishna River Tributory near Shilahalli Village in Lingasugur Taluk, Raichur District** on Turnkey Basis based on Tenderer's own Design on two cover system. Approx. cost of work : **Rs. 9.58 Crore.** EMD Amount : **Rs.9.58 Lakh** (Rs.1.00 Lakh through KPP Portal & Rs.8.58 lakh in the form of Bank Guarantee). **Period of Completion (including monsoon):** 24 months.

Interested applicants can view and download the complete proposal documents from GoK KPP portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **(a)** Last date for submission of bids through KPP portal: **29.11.2025 upto 17:30 Hrs. (b)** Date and time of opening of Technical bids is : **01.12.2025 at 11:30 Hrs.**

*Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes if any, will be updated only on KPP Portal / KRDCL website **: https://www.krdcl.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KRDCL, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/3842/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT ENGINEERING WING
Office of the, Executive Engineer, H & F W D Engg., Division, Fort Road, Dharwad-580 008 Ph : **0836 -2955800** E-mail : **eehfwedvndwd1@gmail.com**
No: EE/H&FW Engg./Div/Dwd/Tender/Notification- AAM&PMC/ 1102 /2025-26 Date : 14.11.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, H&FWD, Engg., Division, Dharwad invites tender from contractors registered in KPWD in double cover system as per KTPP Act 1999 & Rules 2000 through KPP Portal for the following works.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Est. Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Class of contractor	Period of completion (including mansoon)	Category of contractor	Remarks
	PM ABHIM AAM WORKS						
1	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Malabad in Athani Tq., Belagavi District	**55.08**	**0.55**	Class III & above	6 Months	ST	Call-3
	15th FINANCE AAM WORKS						
2	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandira at Nerli in Hukkeri Taluk, Belagavi District.	**55.08**	**0.55**	Class III & above	6 Months	ST	Call-3
3	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandira at Nandihalli, Belagavi Rural Taluk in Belagavi District.	**55.08**	**0.55**	Class III & above	6 Months	CAT-II(A)	Call-3
4	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandira at Yamakanmardi 2, Hukkeri Taluk in Belagavi District.	**55.08**	**0.55**	Class III & above	6 Months	CAT-II(A)	Call-3
5	Construction of Sub Center Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Atharga-B in Indi Tq.,Vijayapur District	**53.30**	**0.53**	Class III & above	6 Months	CAT-I	Call-3
	Replacement works						
6	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandira at Chikkadapur in Hungund Tq., Bagalkote District.	**54.64**	**1.10**	Class III & above	6 Months	General	Call-2
7	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandira at Govanakoppa in Badami Tq., Bagalkote District.	**54.64**	**1.10**	Class III & above	6 Months	General	Call-2
8	Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandira at Hire-Otageri in Hungund Tq., Bagalkote District.	**54.64**	**1.10**	Class III & above	6 Months	General	Call-2

Sl. No	Description of work	Estimated cost	Approximate PMC cost (Excluding GST)	Earnest Money Deposit	Head of Account	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)	Remarks
	P.M.C.						
1	Project Management Consultancy Services for Proposed construction of LINAC Bunker in the premises of Karwar Institute of Medical Sciences, Karwar (KRIMS), Uttara Kannada District	**375.00**	**1.50**	**0.25**	Medical Education	Till the completion of work	Call-2
2	Project Management Consultancy Services for Construction of 500 KLD STP Work in KRIMS Premises at Karwar in U.K. District	**270.00**	**1.05**	**0.25**	Medical Education	Till the completion of work	Call-2
3	Project Management Consultancy Services for Construction of Taluk Level Hospital at Khanapur in Belagavi District	**3520.00**	**10.00**	**0.50**	4210-01-110-1-19-436 (NABARD)	Till the completion of work	Call-2
4	Project Management Consultancy Services for Construction of 50 bedded CRITICAL CARE UNIT Hospital in the premises of KIMS, Hubballi taluk, Dharwad District	**1663.00**	**5.00**	**0.25**	PM-ABHIM	Till the completion of work	Call-2

Calendar events : (1) Last date for receipt of tender : **24.11.2025** up to 16.00 hrs
(2) Date of opening of technical bid : **25.11.2025** up to 16.30 hrs

The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP platform (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Tenders shall be submitted electronically, EMD, Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested contractors shall register on the KPP platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE : (1) All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire Tender process, rejection of bids/individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. (2) Henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through newspapers and further changes in respect of this tender notification will be uploaded on KPP portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
H&FWD Engg. Division, Dharwad.
DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/871/2025-26

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru District
No.5, Millers Road, Bengaluru-560052
No: 83/STS/2025-26 Dated : 13.11.2025

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

E-tender are invited in "Two Cover System" as per the Karnataka Transperency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 sub rule 17(2) through E-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) for Purchase of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras (ANPR) to the Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru District.

Sl. No	Indent No.	Particulars	Qty.	Last date for submission of Tender
1	KSP/2025-26/IND0402	Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras (ANPR)	35	**18-11-2025**

In order to participate in E-Procurement Platform all the intended tenderers have to register in the E-Procurement portal. A training Programmer in E-Procurement is organized by E-Procurement cell. The Tenderers who participate can take assistance with E-Procurement help Desk at 080-25501227, 25501216 in order to participate in the e-procurement tender. It is mandatory for tenderers to register in E-Procurement Platform. (Technical Bid Open Date: 28-11-2025)

Please visit (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) for more information or call helpline 080-25501227, 25501216

Sd/-
Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru District.
DIPR/CP/3836/NR/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat Shivamogga
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Divison, Sagara.
No: EE/PRED/SD/S/S/S/O/KW&KG-1&2/AE/JE/25-26/1895
Date: 11.11.2025

Tender Notice (Through KPPP Portal)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Sagar, Shivamogga has invited item-wise e-tenders from eligible and KPPP-registered contractors registered with the Public Works Department for the works under Grey Water Management, MGNREGA, PM Shri Scheme, Link Document Civil Works, 2515-00-101-0-31(090) Scheme, Mahatvakankshi Scheme, 4202-01-201-1-08-139 Scheme for the year 2025-26 under the jurisdiction of this Department, subject to the provisions of KW&KG-1 & 2 (Standard Tender Document)..

1. Tender Form Download Date: 13-11-2025 to 19-11-2025
2. Last Date for Submission of Tender Form: 20-11-2025 at 16:00 hrs **3.** Bid Opening Date : 21-11-2025 at 16:01 hrs
1. General Works: 10826 CALL-4, 10159 CALL-3, 19984, 20045, 13074, 20350 **2. ST Works:** 19355 CALL-2, 20431 **3. SC Works:** 20122 **4. Category II A Works:** 18923 CALL-2, 20121

Tender details can be viewed and downloaded from the website (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) or from this office and for more information, the content manager can be contacted on the office phone number: 08183-226064 during office hours or the helpdesk phone numbers: 080-25501216, 080-25501227.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.Eng. Department, Sagara.
DIPR/smg/NO:62/11/ksmca/25-26/1238

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: ಕಛೇರಿ: 08192–232008, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 252899
ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ3:ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:13:2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ:13.11.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)"

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ– 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಸೇವಾ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮತ್ತು 03 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್, ರಾಜನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪಂಪ್ ಹೌಸ್ ನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇಂದಿರಾ ಕ್ಯಾಂಟೀನ್ ಮಾಸ್ಟರ್ ಕಿಚನ್ ದುರಸ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಯಂತ್ರೋಪಕರಣಗಳು, ನಮ್ಮ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕ್ ಮತ್ತು ನಗರ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಬ್ರಾಂಡಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿಸುವುದು, ಅವಶ್ಯ ವಸ್ತುಗಳ ಖರೀದಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳ ಖರೀದಿ ರಿಜಿಸ್ಟರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಿಂಟ್ ಮಾಡಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ಹೈಮಾಸ್ಟ್ ದುರಸ್ಥಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಸಿ ಎಸ್ ಆರ್ ದರಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲದ ಕಾರಣ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು, ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/ ನೀರುಸರಬರಾಜು) ರವರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ವಿಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಶಾಖೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192 234444 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.ಸೂಚನೆ : 1) ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮುಂದೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 2) ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಅದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 01.12.2025 ಸಮಯ: 17.00 ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 02.12.2025 ಸಮಯ 17.30 ಫ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್(>100 ಲಕ್ಷ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: : 25.11.2025 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ನಂತರ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 04.12.2025 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ನಂತರ

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 24.11.2025 ಸಮಯ: 17.00 ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 25.11.2025 ಸಮಯ 17.30 ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 27.11.2025 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ನಂತರ

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/
474/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/
2025–26

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ
ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

ILLUSIONS AND DELUSIONS

India's merger debate: Bigger banks or better banks?

TCA Ranganathan
The former chairman of the Export Import Bank of India is a banker with a theory of everything
@tcartca

Another round of public sector bank mergers is on the horizon, with policymakers again signalling ambition to create "world-class" institutions. Apparently, bigger banks are presumed to be stronger, more resilient, and more globally relevant. Yet India's economic structure raises doubts about whether size alone can deliver competitiveness or resilience.

India's share of global merchandise exports remains below 2%, hindered by its relatively weak manufacturing base. Consequently, export finance represents less than 2% of total bank credit, significantly lower than in peer economies. Capital controls exist. Indian PSBs, thus, perforce, remain focused on mobilising deposits, lending domestically, and supporting rural development. Together, they run about 85,000 branches and employ hundreds of thousands of staff. What exactly is the challenge that merged banks will handle better than the current survivors?

The last restructuring in 2019-20 reduced the number of PSBs from 27 to 12. The integration of technology, HR, and branches was painful, with regional and personal connections often blunted or lost. Asset quality improvements were driven more by write-offs – amounting to over Rs 12 lakh crore in the past decade – than recoveries under the Insolvency Code. But what did size achieve? Five private banks – HDFC, ICICI, Axis, Kotak, and IndusInd – often collectively exceed Rs 20 lakh crore in market capitalisation, surpassing all PSBs combined, indicating that profitability, technology, and partnerships are more important than scale. Merging balance sheets without changing business models risks adding complexity, not global reach.

Globally, the contrast is stark. SBI's assets are approximately $800 billion; the next four PSBs each hold between $180 billion and $210 billion. China's ICBC alone has $6.9 trillion. JP Morgan Chase has $4 trillion, while Bank of America, Citigroup, and Wells Fargo each manage $2-3 trillion. Britain's HSBC, Barclays, Lloyds, and NatWest all exceed $1 trillion. Even if India merged all PSBs, they would still be smaller than a single Chinese bank. Yet size alone does not make banks competitive. China's lenders expanded because they were tied to national objectives, including financing exports and promoting the yuan. US and UK banks thrive in open capital markets, while India lacks these structural advantages.

The real issue is risk concentration. India has only about 135 scheduled commercial banks – including 12 public sector, 21 private, and 44 foreign banks – along with 28 regional rural banks and approximately 1,800 cooperative banks, implying that systemic risk is concentrated in a small set of institutions. This magnifies shocks, as seen in the NPA crisis. Other countries take a different view. The US has more than 4,400 FDIC-insured banks and 4,500 credit unions. The EU counts nearly 4,800 credit institutions. China has 4,000 rural and city commercial banks. Crises will always occur, and banks will be impacted; however, if they are large in number and varied in type, the shocks are more manageable.

India's PSBs also carry unusually large branch networks. In the US, though JP Morgan and Wells Fargo have approximately 4,000-5,000 branches, banks with several hundred branches are considered large. European banks, such as Rabobank or Credit Agricole, operate as networks of smaller, community-focused, semi-autonomous banks. China's giants avoid agricultural, priority, and microfinance lending. India's unilinear PSB networks, staffed by undifferentiated cadres, risk anonymity and poor service quality. Customers often perceive PSBs as weaker on service and personal connect than private banks, a systemic issue rather than an institutional one.

Global turbulence has intensified, and risks are multiplying – from cyber threats to digital fraud to trade and climate-related conflicts. Other countries keep modernising regulators. The US spreads oversight across multiple agencies, such as the Federal Reserve, FDIC, OCC, and CFPB. The UK follows the "twin peaks" model: the Prudential Regulation Authority, under the Bank of England, for safety and soundness, and the independent Financial Conduct Authority for consumer and market conduct.

In the EU, the European Banking Authority harmonises rules through the "single rulebook" while national supervisors and the European Central Bank oversee banks. China has been continuously making regulatory setup changes, most recently in 2023, when it established the National Financial Regulatory Administration.

RBI, by contrast, still combines monetary policy, banking supervision, foreign exchange management, and payments regulation. Uniqueness should not excuse inertia. Insufficient investments in enhancing regulatory capability may create more problems than those faced in other countries, which continue to update their supervisory frameworks. Strong banks are necessary, but strong regulators are essential.

India's PSB system does not lack scale or ambition; it lacks agility, which stems from a lack of operational independence and inadequate human resource reforms. Granting increased independence will require greater policy confidence in regulatory strength, warranting continual enhancements to regulatory capability lest India's lenders fall victim to the newer risks, just as IndusInd Bank reminds us. As Clemenceau warned, "Generals always prepare to fight the last war, not the next."

ROVING REFLECTIONS

Mamdani's mandate for hope

Zohran Mamdani, a rank outsider, has won the New York City mayoral election on the platform of affordability and a promise of change. He has captured the lightning in a bottle, as the saying goes, but is he here for the long haul? Can he deliver on the promise? Mamdani, 34, is not insular to the 'hope-monger' barbs by his detractors or the challenges of governance, which ends up in 'prose' from the 'poetry' of campaigning. Barack Obama, who ran his successful 2008 campaign on hope, faced similar cynicism.

Hope was integral to Donald Trump's presidential campaign, too. Sure, he captured the imagination of the white ultra nationalists and Christian evangelicals, tapping into their angst and prejudice against the immigrants, but his promise to rein in inflation and bring back jobs resonated with America. Latinos, blacks, and blue-collar whites disillusioned with conventional politicians voted for him. But the hope has receded in rising inflation, erratic diplomacy, regressive trade policies, and targeted crackdowns on immigrants.

India, too, has parallels. Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister on the slogan '*garibi hatao*'. It remained a slogan. Narendra Modi had a meteoric rise, riding on striking messages on the dawn of achche din and all-inclusive vikas. He has achieved much, but we are now a polarised society marked by discontent and deep inequalities.

Who can forget the incredible ascent of Arvind Kejriwal, a complete political novice? Kejriwal formed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on the plank of eradicating corruption and the promise of good governance. He defeated the formidable BJP and the Congress in Delhi and was in power for 10 years. After a promising start, Kejriwal unravelled as an authoritarian within his party, a leader who crushed dissent and undermined inner-party democracy. His activist-protester line of functioning also led to constant run-ins with the Lt Governor of Delhi as well as the Prime Minister. An elected leader of a state cannot deliver on poll promises if he or she fails to build bridges with a cross-section of stakeholders, including the opposition. As was to be expected, the relentless political acrimony hindered governance.

The same fate may await Mamdani. Trump has already threatened to "punish" New York by withholding federal funding to the city. If recent crackdowns on protests and immigrants are any indication, a Trump-Mamdani face-off is a distinct, immediate possibility.

Capt G R Gopinath (Retd.)
builds bridges, sometimes by tearing down walls. He is a soldier, farmer, and entrepreneur

Mamdani won because people were tired of ageing politicians who had induced a sense of fatalism in the system, eroding faith in democracy. He symbolises hope in a climate of cynicism. Mamdani possesses a disarming charm, is a skilful campaigner, an unscripted and unaffected conversationalist, and a great listener. He has not been afraid to condemn Hamas while calling Israel's war on Gaza a genocide, or saying he would arrest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a war criminal declared by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Even Democrats from the extreme left do not speak that language.

He kept his campaign promise of affordability straight and simple – a freeze on rents, free and fast buses, and affordable childcare make a compelling case for political change. This clarity of messaging explains why he found strong support across ethnicities, scripting a decisive voter shift. As Nancy Pelosi, veteran Democrat and former speaker of the US House of Representatives, told Edward Luce of the *Financial Times*, "Democracy is saved at the kitchen table."

Mamdani's stated move to tax the billionaires is where things get a touch tricky because he doesn't have the power to do so. He has to co-opt the New York Governor and enlist many other stakeholders to do that. Politics is a sport that requires skills tailored to the context. For example, the rent-freeze proposal cannot be implemented unilaterally. Owners will withdraw properties from the market, causing a scarcity that will further raise the rents. This is an inherent risk that Mamdani has to navigate with caution.

Mamdani has already shown some precocious maturity in announcing veteran civil servant Dean Fuleihan as his first Deputy Mayor. The mayor-elect has his task cut out. He has to learn on the fly and build coalitions to win over all sections of society, including the technocrat billionaires he has criticised.

Zohran Mamdani has shown promise, but will he adapt? As is often the case, power intoxicates – the crown changes its wearer and hubris blinds them to reality. As Aldous Huxley said, "That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of the lessons that history has to teach."

SANS THE SACRED

The deepfakes of palace gossip

Did you read about the AI-generated video of a tiger drinking liquor, which led the police to issue a notice to the Instagram user who posted it? I was thinking about the trouble of figuring out the truth in this era of deepfakes, and so I remembered the story of Virabhuja.

Once upon a time, there lived a king called Virabhuja. He was a very noble man, and although he had a hundred wives, his chief queen, Gunavara, was dearer to him than all the others. Why did he have to marry the other ninety-nine then? Don't ask me – I have no clue. Anyway, despite a hundred queens, no male progeny was forthcoming, and so Virabhuja had his physician called and requested some elixir to produce an heir to the throne. The physician agreed, but told him that he would require a wild goat. A goat was promptly brought from the forest, and the elixir was prepared with its meat. All the ninety-nine queens were eating the food with the special elixir, but Gunavara was missing because she was praying with the king. When she came to lunch, the meat was all finished.

The king was displeased. "The whole point of this was for Gunavara to bear me a son," he said. There was no meat left, but the cooks produced the horns of the goat, and the physician, eager to placate the king, made an extra special elixir with the horns. All the queens gave birth to sons, but of course, Gunavara gave birth to an extra special son who came to be named Shringabhuja. Now the king became all the more partial to Gunavara, since Shringabhuja was the most obedient, handsome, and capable of all his sons.

The other queens, who were understandably less than pleased, decided to exact revenge on her by spreading the fake news that she had a dalliance with the guard of the women's quarters. The king was suspicious about whether his loving wife and faithful guard would betray his trust, but he tried asking all his other queens about it, and they were all in agreement that Gunavara was cheating on the king. And so, the king decided to take some time away from the two. He told the guard that he had heard that the guard had killed a brahmin and sent him away on a long pilgrimage. The guard was surprised and denied the allegation, but had to go away. Meanwhile, the king told Gunavara that an astrologer had predicted the loss of his kingdom unless he cast her away in a dungeon and lived a life of chastity. The devoted wife, eager to protect her husband's kingdom at any price, was only too willing to stay in a dungeon as long as necessary.

Anusha S Rao
is the author of *How to Love in Sanskrit* and likes writing new things about very old things
@AnushaSRao2

Meanwhile, the ninety-nine other sons of the king similarly conspired against Shringabhuja and had him sent away, too. At this point, the king's suspicions heightened, and at night, he went to one of his wives who had initiated the conspiracy. He plied her with large quantities of wine without drinking any himself. Half-asleep and drunk, the wife murmured, delighted, "Would the king ever have visited me this way before, had we not made up those lies about Gunavara?" The king's suspicions were immediately confirmed, and he had Gunavara released from the dungeon, and he reinstated the guard who had returned from his pilgrimage.

For a moment, forget Virabhuja, and forget the innocent guard and the queen who had to be punished needlessly, you might say. What's with this goat-horn business to have sons? Aren't we over these things in this day and age? In a country where some states have a sex ratio of less than 882 female births for a 1,000 males, I would say, wouldn't it be great if we were?

KNOWN UNKNOWNS

Finding *ukku* for the digital age

Long before lithium and silicon powered our world, India's forges produced *ukku*, or Wootz steel, a material so advanced that it gave Damascus blades their famed strength and shimmering pattern. This was more than metallurgy; it was geopolitics. Damascus controlled the brand, but India held the secret of conversion, transforming ore into high-carbon crucible steel. That mastery made India a global material power two millennia ago.

Today, the same principle defines the modern world. Power lies beyond owning raw materials and mines, in mastering the refining and processing of critical minerals. Lithium, cobalt, graphite, and rare earth elements (REEs) are essential for semiconductors, batteries, wind turbines, and defence systems.

China saw this future early. Beginning in the late 1970s, it built dominance by mining but also by controlling the midstream – the complex, chemical-intensive refining stages that turn raw ore into high-purity material. While China mines less than 70% of the world's rare earths, it refines more than 90% of them. It processes nearly all the world's battery-grade graphite and over two-thirds of global lithium output into usable chemicals.

This control was achieved through patient industrial policy, state support, and the acceptance of early environmental costs, which deterred Western competitors. The result is extraordinary leverage. When Beijing imposed export controls on gallium and germanium – metals vital for advanced chips – it instantly exposed the world's dependence. And the more recent Nexperia issue involves the Dutch government taking control of Nexperia, a Chinese-owned chipmaker, due to national security concerns and potential technology transfer to China. China retaliated by temporarily blocking Nexperia's chip exports, disrupting the global automotive supply chain and causing significant problems in the UK, which had previously blocked a separate Nexperia takeover on national security grounds. The situation appears to be de-escalating after a recent US-China deal, though the core tensions remain.

Gopichand Katragadda
The former CTO of Tata Group and founder of AI company Myelin Foundry is driven to peel off known facts to discover unknown layers
@Gkatragadda

The United States and Europe are trying to rebalance this equation. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in the US and the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) in the EU both aim to rebuild refining and recycling capacity at home or in "friendly" countries. These are serious efforts, but they face steep hurdles – high capital costs, slow permitting, and stringent environmental standards. Diversification will take years, not months. For India, this new material map presents both opportunity and urgency. The country sits on rich endowments – an estimated 5.9 million tonnes of lithium in Jammu and Kashmir, vast monazite sands containing rare earths along the coasts, and roughly 11% of global ilmenite and rutile reserves for titanium. Yet India's refinement gap is stark. We extract some minerals but process a few into high-value products. Without mastering this step, India risks becoming an exporter of ore and an importer of technology – the reverse of the *ukku* era.

The newly launched National Critical Mineral Mission is an important start. It brings exploration, processing, and recycling under one policy umbrella and opens rare-earth mining to private participation. But to close the refinement gap, India must now move from policy to plant.

Focus and integrate. Select two or three strategic value chains – for example, mine-to-magnet for electric-motor rare earths, and mine-to-cell chemicals for lithium batteries. Assign each a lead public-private consortium with explicit offtake guarantees. The titanium sponge programme led by ISRO, DMRL, and KMML shows that this model works.

Build processing parks. Establish National Mineral Processing Zones within the next three years – industrial clusters with power, water, and pre-cleared environmental approvals: Co-locate R&D centres and pilot plants to compress innovation timelines.

Go outward to secure inputs, but refine inward. Through KABIL, India should lock in equity or offtake deals in lithium- and cobalt-rich nations, ensuring that concentrates are processed in India – the goal: partial self-reliance within five to seven years in at least two critical minerals.

Recycle and substitute. By 2030, battery recycling must become a mainstream domestic industry. Standards for design-for-disassembly and digital tracking of EV batteries can ensure a steady flow of recovered lithium, cobalt, and nickel. Simultaneously, India should invest in sodium-ion batteries and non-rare-earth magnets to reduce long-term vulnerabilities.

Two thousand years ago, India shaped the world's most sophisticated steel and traded it for global renown. In the 21st century, the challenge is to recreate that legacy with the materials of the digital age. If the next decade sees India mastering the chemistry between rock and product – the transformation from ore to oxide, from metal to magnet – we will once again move from ingot to influence, from *ukku* to neodymium.

THIS AND THAT

Bengaluru beyond the traffic and flooding

S R Ramakrishna
often sees high art in kitsch and vice versa

A talking point this past week is how corporate heroes Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and Mohandas Pai have taken a U-turn to shower praise on Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. Just the other day, they were posting on social media about how badly Bengaluru was being governed. When they met Shivakumar, he told them, considering their comments become international news, they shouldn't shame the city that helped them grow. "If you forget the roots, you won't get the fruits," is what he famously said. All of which brings us to three aspects of Bengaluru life that consistently draw media attention – bad traffic, flooding, and language conflicts.

Bengaluru is many things to many people, but the national headlines are grabbed by a handful of business leaders, mostly upset about one of the three things above. The conversation among old-time Bengalureans is predictable, too. They wonder why every time Mumbai faces a flood-like calamity similar to the ones in Bengaluru, the headlines only talk about the 'spirit of Mumbai'. Why is the focus trained, they wonder, on only the positives – for instance, on how quickly that city got back on its feet? Why Bengaluru does not merit similar affection is a favourite topic across the board.

One argument old-time Bengalureans advance is that the city is dominated by people hailing from other cities who reserve their fondness for where they came from. So where are the untold Bengaluru stories? For some less aggrieved and more nuanced narratives, you will have to dip into the world of Kannada writing. Vivek Shanbhag's fiction, for instance. His writing about Bengaluru spans at least three decades and traces the transformation of the city since the 1990s. In *Huli Savari*, you find people from interior Karnataka facing a severe culture shock in corporate Bengaluru, and then coming to terms with its subtle machinations. In *Ghachar Ghochar*, which has travelled across the world in a superb translation by Srinath Perur, you find a middle-class family switching from a regular job to business, finding affluence, and discovering how it changes the nature of human relationships.

A more recent work, *Sakina's Kiss*, tells the story of a software engineer who has participated in the transformation of Bengaluru and now finds dark humour in what once terrified him. His politics has shifted subtly, and he enjoys watching loud, ridiculous TV debates to annoy his wife. In Nataraj Huliyar's recent short story, *Preparation*, you find a rationalist professor facing off with nationalist colleagues, learning about his vulnerability, and then finding ways to overcome his fear.

The multitude of languages spoken in Bengaluru must similarly be responding to the pulse of the city in the fiction they produce. An earlier generation of writers, including U R Ananthamurthy, P Lankesh, and Poornachandra Tejaswi, wrote fiction of a high order, but their concerns did not cover the transformation of post-'90s Bengaluru. Among the books in English documenting Bengaluru are *Askew* (2016) by T J S George and *Multiple City* (2008), edited by Aditi De. They represent perspectives of people who have lived in the city long, and enjoyed a warm, far from adversarial equation with it.

Siddalingaiah's three-volume autobiography *Ooru Keri* introduces us to some of the most eccentric Bengalureans. One builds a huge temple, imagining he was an emperor in his previous birth. Another finds himself dead on paper, and jobless as a result – he has shared his ESI card with a colleague who uses it and dies in hospital. A professor forgets the English word 'jump' in a university classroom, and gets his students to prompt him by jumping from a high platform.

News stories about Bengaluru will continue to shout and scream, with the usual suspects driving home the same points. If you want to look for Bengaluru stories beyond the headlines, look elsewhere.

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Grace for the grey

India's elders are living longer but lonelier lives. Longevity, yes, but what about dignity? From lack of geriatric care to rising dementia, this is a crisis that resembles a hydra. Without infrastructure, empathy and foresight, longevity may become our most overlooked emergency, writes Suruchi Kapur Gomes

In despair, her eyes searched for warmth. Loneliness clung to her like oil — inevitable, silent. Family had drifted away, and friends were no longer in reach. Pasha, 68, from a Uttar Pradesh village, lived alone with Parkinson's disease, with little support and no nearby medical facility.

In Bengaluru, Jesina M, aged 82, resides in a shelter waiting for a visit that rarely comes. In Mumbai, Dr Malathi Krishna, 79, still goes to work thrice a week, refusing to let age define her. For Shama Vij, 78, and Andrew Lobo, 65, independence has been lost; everyday life depends on assistance. Each life reflects a troubling truth: elders once seen as guardians of wisdom are now left to navigate systems that scarcely regard them.

More than 140 million Indians are aged 60 and above, and that number is expected to rise sharply to roughly 320–350 million by 2050 — meaning one in five Indians will be a senior citizen. (*UNFPA 2023; LASI 2021)* Yet an overwhelming portion of this "wisdom generation" faces chronic conditions, loneliness, uncertain finances and inadequate care.

"Elders are struggling: 75 per cent with chronic issues, 25 per cent multiple chronic issues, 50 per cent loneliness... India's 140 million seniors are expected to reach 340 million by 2047–2050... Our infrastructure is not designed for seniors," says Saumyajit Roy, founder of Emoha Elder Care.

No country for the old?

India has long called itself the world's youngest country, but those demographics are shifting fast. With about 13–14 per cent of the population aged over 60 today (LASI 2021), the share is projected to reach about 20 per cent by mid-century (UNFPA 2023). Life expectancy in India is expected to rise from 72 in 2023 to about 77 by 2045, and 83 by 2080 (MoSPI Projection).

But longevity without dignity is no triumph. When oncologist Dr Vishal Rao first visited a destitute elderly home in Bengaluru, he found 20 adults sharing a room — many with dementia, paralysis or severe mobility issues. "They asked, 'Is it your birthday?' People remember us only on special occasions. Some slept in urine and defecation," he recalls. Noting the cruelty of neglect, he adopted the home and improved services. But across India, such intervention remains rare.

Data paints a harsh reality. A report by the Tata Trusts found that about 1,150 elderly-care facilities existed around the 2011 census, with a capacity for only 97,000 seniors (Tata Trusts 2019). Capacity must grow eight-to-ten-fold to meet future needs. According to UNFPA, 40 per cent of seniors fall into the poorest wealth quintile, and nearly 19 per cent have no regular income (UNFPA 2023). Meanwhile, nuclear families are becoming more common and traditional joint-family support systems are eroding.

Dr Rao warns: "If there is no dignity to life in geriatrics, there is no point in talking about longevity."

The lost wisdom generation

Ageing can no longer be written off as a future problem: it's here. India's seniors face prep regimes, medical complications, isolation and invisibility. While affluent urban Indians may access luxury assisted-living or home-care services, many rural and lower-income elders survive on chance.

That said, a new wave of innovators is trying to reclaim ageing as a phase of purpose. Organisations like Vayah Vikas (founded by Kris Gopalakrishnan and Dr Devi Shetty) and platforms such as Emoha Elder Care, WisdomCircle and Dementia India Alliance are building care ecosystems from the ground up.

"The perplexing thing is that India, with the fastest-growing geriatric population, is still unprepared," says Dr Rao. "Longevity isn't about popping pills. It's about dignity, the most fundamental of rights."

Harnessing connections

Vayah Vikas launched in 2021 with a modest senior-citizen forum; today, it claims 125,000 members across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Delhi, and aims for two million by 2030. "We represent the problems of seniors, aggregate services, and champion their health," says Kris Gopalakrishnan.

Emoha, founded by Saumyajit Roy, now operates in about 40 Indian cities and serves over 220,000 elders. Their model includes home monitoring, doctor visits, sensor-based tech and last-mile care. "We deploy sensors at home for vital monitoring, consultations. Every five kilometres, there's a local carer," Roy explains.

Policy reforms are in motion. The expansion of the AB PM-JAY scheme in 2024 covers senior citizens aged 70+ with health insurance up to Rs 5 lakh per family. "Standardisation of senior homes with NABH accreditation is on the agenda," says Kris Gopalakrishnan.

Still, even as these efforts grow, the social cost looms. "Nuclear families are replacing joint ones, so societal cost will be huge. Nearly four million people have dementia or Alzheimer's today. We must galvanise services," says Gopalakrishnan.

In Karnataka, the state government has pivoted libraries into sites of inclusion. "We have initiated over 5,800 libraries... Senior citizens can walk in, interact socially, so they aren't lonely. We're in the process of adding 6,600 libraries," says Uma Mahadevan Dasgupta, Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka.

Rewriting the ageing script

Ageism remains a quiet epidemic. "Society still believes seniors shouldn't work, that they've outlived their utility," says Neeraj Sagar, founder of WisdomCircle. His vision: make ageing a phase of contribution, not retirement.

"In Bengaluru, seniors could solve civic problems — garbage, lakes — while earning an honorarium. The state should support this," he adds. CEO Jamuna Ravi of Vayah Vikas says education systems must include seniors: "Instead of equating seniors as dependent, initiate dialogue at schools."

The Ashoka Fellows' New Longevity Programme and the Aditya Birla Centre for Enriching Lives are bringing these ideas into the policy arena. Loneliness, says Dr Deepak Saini of the Longevity Lab (IISc), "is the biggest killer. We need to harness our large, caring, family-oriented culture into social connection."

The Dementia time-bomb

The Dementia India Alliance estimates that 9 million Indians live with dementia today; the figure may rise to 17 million by 2036 (DIA 2024). "Memory loss isn't a normal part of ageing," says Ramani Sundaram, executive director of DIA. The alliance has set up free online memory screening for 55+ and helped draft a "Dementia-Friendly Hospital" accreditation checklist.

Tech and tenderness

For many seniors, the most powerful device is their mobile phone. Hemanshu Jain founded Khyaal after his father struggled with isolation. "From 10,000 seniors in 2021, we're now 30 lakh strong," he says. The platform offers digital literacy, fraud prevention, health access and community engagement.

In Nashik, Saurabh Botra's Habuild Yoga community records thousands of seniors joining six sessions a day. "It's not just fitness, it's movement, laughter, me-time," Botra says. "Seniors must understand the difference between walking and training; training matters as muscle declines."

Preventive care vital

India produces only about 31 MD geriatric medicine seats across a handful of institutions. "At least 15 per cent of OPD patients are over 60, and 40 per cent of those have undiagnosed dementia or Alzheimer's," says Jamuna Ravi.

Spine surgeon Dr Thomas Kishen says geriatric specialists are essential to prevent double prescriptions and drug interactions. He adds: "Fall-prevention matters: bathrooms need non-slip surfaces, living spaces must be brightly lit."

> The perplexing thing is that India, with the fastest-growing geriatric population, is still unprepared. Longevity isn't about popping pills. It's about dignity, the most fundamental of rights.

Dr Samina Zamindar of Zamindar Eye Centre warns that vision loss affects 73 per cent of people over 50. "Most causes are treatable, yet rural women delay care and treat blurred vision as ageing," she says.

Caregivers remain under-trained and unsupported. "We need a national certification programme for carers," says Roy. "Every nurse needs 10 carers; India needs ten times more carers than nurses." Emoha currently works with 350 trained carers across its network.

Jamuna Ravi notes that many nursing-supplier services are unregulated and low-quality. "We're working with NGOs to start online training for dementia awareness and caregiving," she says.

Exploitation shadows old age. "Many seniors are preyed on by their own children," warns Kris Gopalakrishnan. At Vayah Vikas, a legal cell gives confidential advice to seniors on property, finances, and abuse. Khyaal launched India's first "senior-citizen fintech card" — a prepaid option not tied to bank accounts. "Seniors have peace of mind when they load and spend safely," says Jain.

What's the way forward?

A dedicated Ministry for Senior Citizens is fast becoming a consensus demand. "Right now, seniors are classified under a ministry that also manages differently-abled people... We need a single focal point," says Dr Rao.

Research is still skewed. "A country that will have the highest number of seniors hardly features in global longevity reports," says Ravi. "We need India-centred research, so solutions fit our realities."

Assisted living is growing, but remains the preserve of the wealthy. A resident in a Bengaluru senior home says: "It's great to connect... but I long to talk to young people."

Still, hope remains. "People who age better continue to be curious," says Neeraj Sagar. "Curiosity plus wisdom gets people to live better lives."

An infra apathy

- About 138 million Indians are aged 60 and above, yet the country's elder-care market remains extremely small compared to global markets as well as demand.
- Geriatrics remains a rare speciality – only a handful of institutions offer MD degrees in the field, producing very few new geriatricians each year.
- Property and family disputes account for a large share of elder-related litigation, estimated at roughly three-quarters of such cases.
- By 2050, seniors are expected to make up about one in five Indians. Many report mental-health issues and loneliness; roughly one-fifth live alone or only with a spouse.
- Around nine million Indians live with dementia, and millions more will require palliative-care support in the coming years.

SOURCES: PWC-ASLI 2024, LEGAL FOUNDATION, UNFPA 2023, SENIOR CARE REFORMS, 2024, DIA 2024

THE 7-DAY FRAMEWORK

- **Days 1–2** — Work in your area of expertise and earn – maintain independence without dipping into savings.
- **Day 3** — Teach – share your knowledge.
- **Day 4** — Give – volunteer or mentor; find your Ikigai moment.
- **Days 5–7** — Learn, unlearn, relearn. Spend time with family, travel, and nurture your social self.

INPUTS FROM NEERAJ SAGAR, FOUNDER, WISDOMCIRCLE

TACKLING DEMENTIA

1. The Dementia India Alliance (DIA) focuses on raising awareness, advocating for policy, and improving access to dementia care.
2. DIA runs extensive community memory-screening campaigns and online brain-health assessments across the country.
3. A Lancet Commission identified 14 modifiable risk factors – including hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and sensory loss – that could delay up to 45 per cent of dementia cases.
4. DIA also offers preventive mental-health questionnaires and support groups to improve early detection and care.
5. It has developed a "Dementia-Friendly Hospital" checklist, now being advocated for inclusion in hospital-accreditation processes.

Helpline: 8585990990

This is a sharp yet unsettling examination of how social media's attention economy alters our language, creativity, and collective thinking, writes Ananya Singh

Talking to the ALGORITHM

ALGOSPEAK
Adam Aleksic
Penguin, pp 256, Rs 799

If you've spent any amount of time online, scrolling through Instagram reels or TikTok videos, you've probably stumbled upon a strange, ever-changing vocabulary. Words that didn't exist a few months ago are suddenly dominating captions, memes, and conversations. Some vanish as quickly as they appear; others form a part of everyday vocabulary.

Until recently, I was quite out of touch with this world. I joined Instagram only this year to understand how these platforms and their algorithms continue to shape our language. What kind of environment do they create? That's when I stumbled upon the work of "Etymology Nerd" and his book, Algospeak.

Anyone who spends enough time on the internet will know that we've reached a point where short-form video content (personally recommended) has accelerated the creation of new words, accents, and grammatical quirks. Consider the phenomenon of "algospeak", a growing lexicon of coded words designed to bypass automated moderation systems.

Nothing reminds you of your own obsolescence quite like being blindsided by the new form of language people speak these days. When Aleksic surveyed teachers, he discovered that many of these algorithmic euphemisms have already affected offline interaction. "Unalive" has entered the classroom vocabulary of children who sometimes learn it before they learn the word "suicide." For someone like me, this sounds both amusing and a bit funnily bleak.

The central thesis of Algospeak is that language produced within these systems does not remain confined to the digital sphere. Rather, it seeps into offline, mainstream discourse. The book's tone is one of fascination rather than despair. Aleksic acknowledges the absurdities of digital speech, its overblown irony, its compulsive performativity, yet he also recognises its inventiveness.

A new evolution

Memes, he notes, function as the new carriers of linguistic evolution, flexible templates into which new cultural content can be inserted with near-instant global recognition. An amusing part of the book is when he describes the particularly ingenious (and often absurd) tactics influencers and content creators have developed to appease the algorithms. His livelihood, after all, depends on his ability to capture attention without triggering the algorithm's obscurity.

His example of a video about the etymology of "pen", which traces the word back to the Latin penis, meaning "tail", is both comical and telling. It ran afoul of content filters and was flagged as sexually explicit, a reminder, if we needed one, that the algorithm is not a discerning reader of context.

Aleksic also admits that he plays the game when it suits him. He knows how to manipulate the system. Take his exploration of the words that are growing in reach, which he knowingly uses to ride the wave of online interest and expand his reach.

One of the sections of Algospeak is on the now-infamous "Rizzler" song, although I must admit I was unaware of its existence before reading his book. He devotes similar attention to other words that have captured the internet's imagination, words like "skibidi" and "gyat".

When I first picked up Algospeak, I expected a different kind of book. I wanted to learn how online slang arises, how it mutates, and how it might reshape communication in the decades to come. And, to an extent, that's there. But what it delivers instead is a study of the influencer era.

By the end, Algospeak reads less like a study and more like a manual on how to thrive within the influencer industry. Aleksic spends considerable time recounting which of his videos performed well and why: anecdotes that might have been illuminating had they been tied to deeper analysis. He returns, again and again, to the same handful of examples without much effort to explore them beyond their virality. We are told where these terms likely came from, but not why they caught on, what this pattern reveals, etc.

Cursory treatment

For someone so fascinated by origins, he seems oddly reluctant to mention it. There is, to be fair, a kernel of insight buried somewhere in his attempt to connect the mechanics of influencer culture with the ways we now speak and think.. Yet Aleksic does not so much analyse this phenomenon as inhabit it. The supposed framework collapses under the weight of shallow examples and a relentless preoccupation with online trends.

Even when he gestures toward origins, the treatment is cursory, devoid of the care one might expect from a serious study.

Aleksic is right to mention the ingenuity with which people repurpose and reimagine language under the pressures of moderation and virality. And yet, I cannot help but feel uneasy. If language is not merely a reflection of thought but one of its primary instruments, then the environment in which language now evolves matters profoundly. What concerns me is not the change itself but the conditions of that change, the fact that the primary space of experimentation is also a space of surveillance, commercial extraction, and algorithmic manipulation.

The danger is not that we are losing language, but that we are learning to think only in ways the algorithm can register. And if our expressive habits are increasingly shaped by the logics of computation, then our intellectual habits may soon follow. Algospeak left me torn between admiration and unease. Language will, of course, survive, but the question is what kind of thinking will accompany it.

The author acknowledges the absurdities of digital speech, its overblown irony, its compulsive performativity, as well as its inventiveness.

SPEED READS

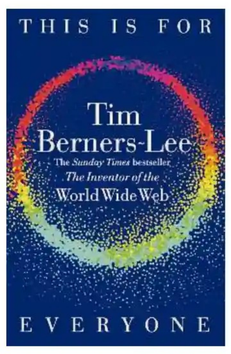
Dive into the net

Are you short on time but like your reading? Here's your literary espresso shot of the week.

Our selection of books this time traces the arc of the internet and shows us how systems built to connect us are slowly corroding under the pressure of profit, power and scale. Together, they are asking the same question: What happens when we forget why the web was created in the first place?

This Is For Everyone by Tim Berners-Lee (Macmillan)

The founder of the Internet has long been an advocate for open web access and power to the individual rather than the mega corporations that have overtaken the World Wide Web today. This Is For Everyone is built on this philosophy — the idea that technology must be empowering and ought not to be confined to a select few.



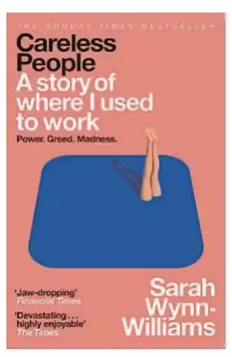
The book traces the origins of the web and largely reads like a memoir. It is a reminder, a sad one perhaps, that the internet originally was born to help people share knowledge and break down hierarchies, not enable new ones. The writing is sincere, warm, and Berners-Lee's insistence that the Internet should remain free and open is admirable. But alas, it sounds more idealistic than practical in today's age and time. The author does point his finger vigorously at the tech giants, but does not really confront them. Still, it is an optimistic read and gives you hope that the Internet can find its mojo again, if enough people care to come together to help it do so.

Enshittification by Cory Doctorow (Macmillan)

An instant classic, Cory Doctorow's Enshittification is an in-your-face, sharp, satirical, sometimes laugh-aloud funny take-down of the digital platforms of today. Doctorow also coined the word Enshittification, which caught on like the viral memes he probably despises. The coinage refers to how many platforms and apps in the digital world start out great but begin to get worse. It is a rather familiar cycle: the initial enthusiasm gets the users in, then the advertisers and investors take over, and eventually, the platform becomes a snakepit of greed and manipulation. Doctorow does not hesitate to name names. However, he does not stop at that: he delves into policy fixes, collective fightbacks and the positive impact of tech-activism. Conversational in style, you read it and you immediately begin to recognise the app behaviour and patterns in your own daily use.

Careless People: A Story of Where I Used to Work by Sarah Wynn-Williams (Macmillan)

Read the title and you would think it is yet another corporate slop like the thousand others generated every month. But nope. Sarah Wynn-Williams, a former director of global public policy at Facebook/Meta, gives us a fascinating fly-on-the-wall look at Mark Zuckerberg's mega ambitions, the power plays within the organisation, the moral ambiguities and the many content moderation failures. So much so that Meta won an order to temporarily ban Wynn-Williams from promoting her work, which is the best kind of bad publicity an author can get! The book is a worrying read. It shows (if you didn't know already) how advertising, politics and ambition drive what you see online. Mind you, this is not collected gossip; this is intense reportage from a person who had access, who was a true-blue insider. The book is, in short, a front-row seat to corporate machinations.



Curated by Rashmi Vasudeva

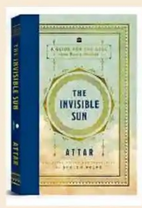
***Speed Reads** is a column that features bite-sized primers of trending releases for book lovers on the go.*

BOOKRACK

YOUR PERFECT PARTNER WON'T BE PERFECT
Sima Taparia
Penguin, pp 112, Rs 399

The author shares the timeless, tried-and-tested traditions of Indian marriage to help readers see dating from a new perspective, avoid common dating pitfalls, and find their perfect matches.

THE INVISIBLE SUN
Attar and Sholeh Wolpe (translator)
Harper, pp 240, Rs 599



Translated in simple, elegant language by award-winning poet Sholeh Wolpe, this book introduces the work of the mystic whom Rumi called 'the spirit' and himself 'its shadow' to readers as never before.

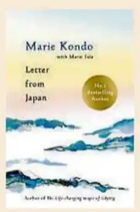
SISTERS IN THE WIND
Angeline Boulley
Harper, pp 384, Rs NA

From the author of Firekeeper's Daughter comes a powerful new Young Adult novel about legacy, sisterhood, standing against injustice and fighting for what is right and true.

LIES, SPIES, AND NUCLEAR RISE
Juggi Bhasin
Vitasta Publn, pp 376, Rs 495

Indian Prime Minister Priya Kaul is in trouble — the country is in turmoil; the Opposition is closing in on her; her son, the heir apparent, has turned into an enemy within.

LETTER FROM JAPAN
Marie Kondo
Harper, pp 320, Rs 699



This book is an invitation to explore Japanese customs and traditions, and how these ways of thinking have informed Marie's life and her famous tidying method.

THE HERITAGE SHELF

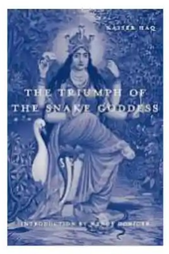
Songs of divinity and delight

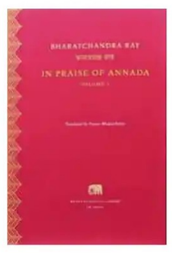
The Bengali Mangalkavyas depict historical transformations and were adapted into vibrant theatre, similar to the Jatra, writes Kaiser Haq

The Mangalkavya is a genre peculiar to Bengali literary culture. It emerged in the 13th century CE and thrived till the 18th century. A few 19th-century compositions mark the end of the tradition.

The Bengali Mangalkavya is clearly related to the Sanskrit Puranas. Indeed, some of the Bengali Mangalkavyas are also known as Puranas; thus, we have the Manasapuran and the Padmapuran, Padma being an alternate moniker of the snake goddess Manasa.

Both the Sanskrit Puranas and the Bengali Mangalkavyas are long narrative poems of benediction that are meant to be performed, but whereas the Sanskrit would be recited by a priest, the Bengali Mangalkavya is turned into colourful theatre, akin to the Jatra. Written in Payar, similar to the heroic couplet, with sections in a more tripping metre, the Tripadi, and divided into episodes called Palas, they are traditionally performed over many days, a Pala or two a day. Figures of the Vedic pantheon dominate the Sanskrit Puranas, while the Mangalkavyas feature pre-Aryan, folksy, 'subaltern', mainly female, deities who engage in epic struggles to force the snooty votaries of high Brahminism into submission. Even the new Muslim ruling classes cannot resist their ruthless power.





There are three major Mangalkavya corpora, centred on very different types of deities. The largest and most popular is the Manasa corpus, whose earliest poet, Kana Haridatta, is known only from fragments critically referenced by Bijoy Gupta (late 15th century), perhaps the most famous of the 50-plus Manasa poets. The Manasamangal story appeals splendidly on two counts: Manasa's relentless contest with the monomaniacal Shiva devotee Chand, who in resisting her rises to the stature of a tragic hero; and, after she delivers the coup-de-grace by sending a lethal snake to dispatch Chand's only surviving son on his wedding night, the bride Behula's riverine odyssey with the decomposing dead body till she induces Manasa to relent and revive him. Chand bows down to Manasa. The story can be seen as a symbolic enactment of conflict resolution between a pre-Aryan cult and Brahminism.

The same is true of the Chandi corpus, which originated in Bengal in the popular cult of Mangal Chandi, a folk deity who subsequently became identified with the goddess Chandi (Durga) of the Sanskrit Markandeya Purana. The Chandimangal of Mukundaram (16th century) is the finest of the dozen or so works devoted to her. Both the Manasa and the Chandi corpora capture crucial historical transformations: a pastoral economy gives way to an agricultural one as forests are cut down and brought under the plough; the advent of Muslim rulers and a growing Muslim population necessitates social adjustments and infuses Perso-Arabic elements into the vernacular.

The Dharma Thakur corpus is somewhat different. Some say Dharma Thakur is a derivative of the Vedic Varuna; others that he sprang from the Buddhist entity of the same name.

There are numerous minor Mangalkavyas, dedicated to such folk divinities as Sitala, goddess of smallpox, Sasthi, goddess of fertility and childbirth, Rai, the tiger god, or even a great man like Sri Chaitanya. The last great Mangalkavya is the work of a sophisticated court poet, Bharatchandra Ray (1712-1760). It is a composite work dealing with Shiva, the raunchy romance of Vidya and Sundar, and a historical episode. The poet's command over prosody and witty diction has earned him wide admiration. Annadamangal is now available in Harvard's Murty Classical Library of India in a bilingual edition titled In Praise of Annada, with an English translation by France Bhattacharya.

Mangalkavyas belong to literary history, but come alive on occasions related to a particular cult. At the end of the monsoon, there is a Manasa festival in the Mymensingh region of Bangladesh. Some friends and I once followed the fully costumed performers as they went by boat, reenacting Behula's arduous odyssey, to the delight of congregated villagers. Such festivities have always been frowned upon both by orthodox Hindus and Mullahs. When asked about this, the performers, all Muslim, including two Hajis, shrugged off the criticism, saying they sang and danced for the well-being, *mangal*, of all; benediction and fun.

The author is the Dean of Arts and Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh.

The Heritage Shelf *is a monthly column from the Murty Classical Library of India, published by Harvard University Press, presenting India's greatest literary works and the enduring traditions that shaped them.*

READ OF THE WEEK

Granta's new autumn issue, no 173 (Penguin), is out this month. This is the magazine's third issue devoted to Indian writing, and the first since Narendra Modi became the prime minister. The cover depicts Modi performing a prayer underwater at the alleged ruins of the ancient mythical city of Dwarka. With a special emphasis on Indian languages, Granta 173 includes translations of fiction from Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, and Kannada, as well as a translators' symposium on Bangla, Malayalam, Telugu, Assamese, and other tongues.

In Prose, Vivek Shanbhag, a leading figure of Kannada literature, returns to Granta's pages with a story translated by Srinath Perur. Geetanjali Shree, whose 2018 novel Tomb of Sand won the International Booker Prize, comes to the pages with 'All at Once' (translated by Daisy Rockwell). The Tamil writer Jeyamohan banishes all cliches of writing about caste in his story 'Kazhumaadan' (translated by Priyamvada Ramkumar).

In the Non-Fiction section, Srinath Perur examines the history and present of the Indian space programme. Raghu Karnad reports from the tunnels of Barnawa. The issue editor, Thomas Meaney, interviews Salman Rushdie. Granta is the UK's leading literary magazine.

Serving Japanese with a fresh spin

Indian chefs are no longer faithfully replicating classic Japanese cuisine but instead attempting to bring their own interpretations to the table. Ruth Dsouza Prabhu takes a look at this trend

Japanese food first came to India around the 1980s, when The Ashok Hotel in Delhi opened Tokyo, to cater to Japanese diplomats and company executives. High-end Japanese restaurants began to proliferate in star hotels in the early 2000s. Metro cities got their fair share of standalone Japanese restaurants, but these spaces remained aspirational, or just not everyone's bowl of soy sauce.

After 2010, with people travelling, a plethora of food shows, and the ability to explore cuisines vicariously through social media, Japanese food exploded. Besides the real deal for those who wanted it, there were experiments – think ghee roast ramens, tandoori sushi, vegetarian soba noodles and more – to make it go beyond the cliché of 'raw fish'.

Chains like Daily Sushi or Sushi and More made takeaway and home delivery options available to the masses. This was followed by an increase in classic Japanese concept restaurants like dedicated ramen bars, izakayas, and teppanyaki grill houses. And now, in what is a new wave perhaps, Japanese cuisine has become all about interpretation and is going playful, hybrid, and deeply intentional. Think Naru Noodle Bar's (Bengaluru) cult following or Inja's (Delhi) Indian-Japanese approach, where one cuisine does not overshadow the other or even Mizu Izakaya in Mumbai, which stays true to izakaya principles but is tuned to local ingredients and seasons. Japan has become an inspirational canvas for experimentation, a muse that Indian chefs and bartenders are reshaping into something wholly their own.

Agedashi tofu (JSan, Goa)

Oriental margherita (ZLB23, Bengaluru)

Intersection of cultures

One such reshaping is ZLB23 at The Leela Palace Bengaluru. It marries the concept of a speakeasy (an American construct) with a Japanese culinary programme. "ZLB23 is not a Japanese bar in the traditional sense. It's a mixology concept inspired by Japan, expressed through our own cultural lens. It lives in that intersection of technology and art, tradition and rebellion that Bengaluru thrives on — bringing together the refined discipline of Japanese ethos with the subversive charm of a speakeasy," says Madhav Sehgal, Area Vice President – South India, The Leela Palace Hotels and Resorts.

"We see Japanese culinary tradition as a framework, rather than a rule book and build on this foundation with global sensibilities. For instance, our Hickory-smoked duck plays with traditional Japanese flavour profiles but uses a house-fermented miso glaze and Karnataka - sourced passionfruit. Our cocktails pay homage to Japanese botanicals like Shiso Negroni, Yuzu Picante, but are reimagined with homemade amazu (sweet-salty vinegar) alternatives using regional botanicals. It's not about fidelity to form—it's about creating a dialogue," Sehgal adds.

Izakaya-meets-ramen bar

Dialogues can result in something new, like JSan, an izakaya-meets-ramen bar in Goa. In Japan, an izakaya is an after-work, informal pub-style drinking space with small plates; a ramen shop is focused on ramen, often fast and casual. "I deliberately brought these worlds together because I believe there is a beautiful synergy; the hearty, deeply crafted bowl of ramen and the relaxed pace of an izakaya, with drinks and small plates. The thinking was, why should ramen be purely solo or focused on speed? Why couldn't it sit in a space where people linger, talk, share plates, sip cocktails, enjoy the after-hours vibe?" says Vishesh Jawarani, Executive Chef-Co-Owner.

How did he make it work? By ensuring his ramen adheres to high-craft standards. The technique for the tonkotsu broth is an age-old one used in Fukuoka, Japan, known as Yobimodoshi. The small plates and starters are suited to an izakaya style — gyoza, karaage, yakisoba, chawanmushi, and raw fish in credos and ceviches.

Fuji oyster (Edo, Bengaluru)

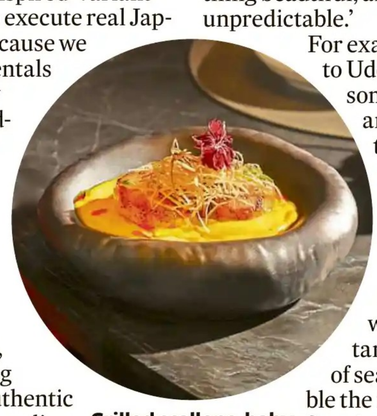
"We don't market ourselves as a loosely 'inspired' variant — we strive to execute real Japanese food. Because we get the fundamentals right, authenticity becomes a by-product rather than a constant debate," Jawarani says.

Edo, classic yet modern

Edo - Japanese Restaurant & Bar ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru has long been known for authentic Japanese food. Its earlier avatar was inspired by the Edo era, when Japan saw an exuberant popularisation of art, music, theatre and literature. The new Edo, unveiled in mid-August takes the essence of authentic Japanese food and presents it in the modern Tokyo-style where the food is still classic Japanese, but the service design, interiors, music, colours and beverage programme take inspiration from the latest trends in Japan.

"Our food has authenticity without rigidity, elegance without formality, and a kind of culinary energy that thrives in flow," says Amandeep Kaur, General Manager, ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru. The Japan-sourced Fuji oysters here are grilled and glazed with sweet soy sauce.

But they reach your table on a replica of the snow-clad Mount Fuji to add the element of surprise and engagement. The pork belly is a nimono (slow braised), cooked at a low temperature for 18 hours, following a traditional Japanese culinary technique. It is then slightly grilled on a Robatayaki before serving to give it a modern-day Tokyo spin". While Edo has a Tokyo spin, at Gaijin in Mumbai the approach is basically, 'let's take something beautiful, and make it a little unpredictable.'



Grilled scallops, baby pumpkin sauce and yuzu koshou (Edo, Bengaluru)

For example, the Pesto Udon Bowl takes something Italian and filters it through Japanese fermentation, basil-meets-koji, creamy yet umami-heavy approach. The Spicy Salmon Gunkan wraps salmon tartar in salmon instead of seaweed, so it's double the flavour and the fire. At the bar, you will find cocktails that use yuzu but also kaffir lime, or miso paired with gin.

"Gaijin literally means outsider," says Rohan Mangalorkar, Partner. "We are not pretending to be a Tokyo izakaya, we are creating a space that celebrates what happens when curiosity meets craft. We love Japanese food, but we also love breaking its rules a little. Diners today want the 'real deal' as much as they want an honest one, something that feels true to the chef, the space, and the moment".

Prawn tostada (Gaijin, Mumbai)

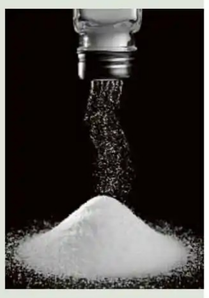
Salt to taste

COOKING DILEMMA

At what stage of cooking should one add salt to a dish? Although adding salt seems like a fairly intuitive thing to do, this is a common dilemma and there are many answers, depending on what you are cooking.

■ If you are sautéing veggies, don't add salt till the end because salt brings out all the water content from the vegetables and makes your stir-fry soggy. This is particularly true of vegetables like mushrooms, cabbage or cauliflower, which have high moisture. You could add a pinch of salt when you add onions to the pan, so that it releases the juices, but only just about. Season the curries later.

■ For meats, adding salt right at the beginning (while grilling) or when you marinade them helps in absorption of flavours and also retention of moisture, making the food tender.



■ Adding salt to beans or pulses at the boiling stage makes them hard and unevenly cooked. If you are using a pressure cooker, add salt after the pulses or beans are nicely boiled.

■ Planning to make a soup? You can add salt during the boiling process in instalments and check for the level of salt. If you are cooking Karnataka's very own food like saaru or huli, ensure that you add salt after the pulses are cooked. For pasta water, you can add salt just as the water starts to boil or when it is cold, so the water boils faster and you can add the pasta later.

■ If you are cooking seafood, ensure that you add salt just before cooking – too early, and the fish or prawns turn rubbery.

*(**Cooking Dilemma** answers that one question which pops up when you are about to try out a recipe but didn't know whom to ask.)*

When addiction runs in the family

New research suggests that addiction may have a transgenerational angle to it, and factors like deeply embedded trauma and stress play a key role too, writes Rashikkha Ra Iyer

The phrase "addiction is a disease of the family" resonates deeply within the realm of recovery, capturing the far-reaching impact of this complex neurobiological condition. Addiction does not exist in isolation—it reverberates through the entire familial system, affecting relationships, dynamics, and emotional well-being.

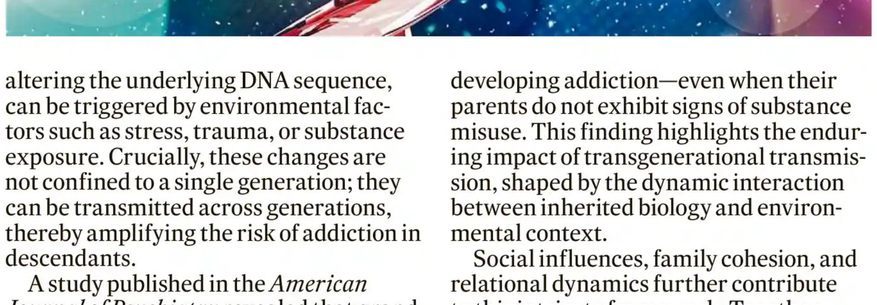
Emerging research suggests that addiction may also possess a transgenerational dimension, one that remains only partially understood. This implies that the effects of addiction can echo across generations, subtly shaping behaviours, vulnerabilities, and coping mechanisms in ways that are not always visible or acknowledged.

Absence of dialogue

In India, where families are often celebrated for their close-knit structures and enduring bonds, cultural norms can paradoxically hinder open dialogue. The emphasis on preserving familial harmony may discourage candid conversations about addiction, leaving individuals unaware of its presence in their lineage. This lack of awareness can complicate the recovery journey, obscuring patterns that clinicians might otherwise address.

Recognising and exploring the transgenerational aspects of addiction is therefore essential to comprehensive care. For healthcare professionals, it presents a nuanced public health challenge—one that demands sensitivity to cultural context, intergenerational trauma, and the silent legacies that shape individual struggles.

Contemporary research underscores that addiction arises from a complex interplay of genetic, epigenetic, and environmental influences. An individual's genetic predisposition significantly shapes their susceptibility to various diseases, including substance use disorders. While the inheritance of specific genetic markers—often referred to as "addiction genes"—is one facet of this vulnerability, epigenetic modifications add another layer of complexity. Epigenetic changes, which influence how genes are expressed without altering the underlying DNA sequence, can be triggered by environmental factors such as stress, trauma, or substance exposure. Crucially, these changes are not confined to a single generation; they can be transmitted across generations, thereby amplifying the risk of addiction in descendants.



A study published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* revealed that grandchildren of individuals with substance use disorders may face an elevated risk of developing addiction—even when their parents do not exhibit signs of substance misuse. This finding highlights the enduring impact of transgenerational transmission, shaped by the dynamic interaction between inherited biology and environmental context.

Social influences, family cohesion, and relational dynamics further contribute to this intricate framework. Together, these elements form a multifaceted landscape in which addiction is not merely a personal affliction but a condition deeply embedded within familial and societal structures.

Embedded trauma

A deeper exploration of transgenerational addiction reveals trauma as a central and often overlooked component. When individuals experience traumatic events, their responses—whether conscious or unconscious—can leave lasting imprints. If this trauma remains unprocessed, it may become somatically embedded, manifesting later as physical or psychological health issues, including addiction.

In the Indian cultural context, societal values such as family honour, public image, and the stigma surrounding mental health often discourage open dialogue. Despite growing awareness and advocacy for mental well-being, conversations around trauma and addiction remain cloaked in secrecy. This silence can perpetuate cycles of unresolved emotional pain, making recovery more complex.

Symptoms such as unexplained anxiety, hypervigilance, or mood disturbances—especially in the absence of identifiable life events or addictive behaviours—may signal the presence of transgenerational trauma. Recognising these patterns is crucial not only for accurate diagnosis but also for shaping effective, compassionate treatment plans. It allows clinicians to address inherited emotional legacies and prevent their transmission to future generations.

Holistic approach

Understanding transgenerational addiction requires a holistic lens—one that integrates neurobiology, trauma theory, and cultural sensitivity. By acknowledging the silent burdens carried across generations and fostering open, stigma-free conversations, we pave the way for more inclusive and effective healing. In doing so, we not only support individual recovery but also contribute to breaking the cycle for generations to come. Start an honest conversation with your family today. Understanding whether addiction has touched your lineage could uncover powerful insights—and be the first step toward healing and breaking the cycle.

(The author is a multidisciplinary professional who works in the UK.)

Role of trauma

- Trauma is an important and often overlooked aspect.
- Symptoms like unexplained anxiety, hypervigilance, or mood disturbances–especially in the absence of identifiable life events or addictive behaviours–may signal the presence of transgenerational trauma.
- When individuals experience traumatic events, their responses–whether conscious or unconscious–can leave lasting imprints.
- If trauma remains unprocessed, it may become somatically embedded, manifesting later as physical or psychological health issues, including addiction.

MYTHBUSTER

Does vitamin C cure a cold?

We've often been told to get loads of vitamin C, whether it's through lime water, citrusy fruits or supplements with vitamin C to beat a nasty cold. The vitamin is not produced in the body so, typically, it is recommended as a supplement or as part of the diet, in the form of vegetables and fruits.

Vitamin C plays an important role in the creation of collagen, which is a protein that helps maintain your skin and also aids in healing wounds. The vitamin also plays a part in ensuring efficient iron absorption, and is known to be an effective antioxidant. The benefits of the vitamin aside, there is no conclusive research that says that supplementation of vitamin C when you have a cold or a flu cures the illness fully.

However, some research says that consumption of the vitamin may help in lowering the severity of your common cold symptoms but only slightly. A meta analysis conducted by a non-profit network of international researchers shows that the time taken to recover from a cold reduced by less than 10 per cent in people who took vitamin C every day (of 0.2 gram dosage) and symptoms of a cold were slightly milder among such people. The network of researchers looked at marathoners and soldiers, essentially people who were exposed to short spells of high physical activity in extremely cold conditions, and concluded that taking vitamin C two to three weeks before their activity, reduced their risk of developing a cold by nearly half. Vitamin C helps manage symptoms of a cold to a small extent but for that you would need to take it consistently, and for extended periods of time much before you actually have a cold.

If you already have a bad cold and you take vitamin C, it can only soothe you momentarily but doesn't necessarily cure your cold.

*(**Mythbuster** picks up a popular wellness belief and examines if it is true, false, or maybe lies somewhere in between.)*

EYE ON DESIGN

What's the shape of wonder?

The rooftop of Casa Mila

Gaudí turned stone into movement and geometry into elegance. Every curve, colour, and column in his work reflects nature's order, writes Shoma Abhyankar

The glimpses of incomplete spires, piercing the deep blue sky, playing hide and seek with ordinary buildings nearby, appeared over the treetops long before the church itself. I was in Barcelona, and the spires belonged to the Basilica de la Sagrada Família — the city's most iconic and most visited landmark.

Still under construction, the basilica is synonymous with architect Antoni Gaudí, whose creations inspire both awe and debate. Born in 1852, Antoni Gaudí i Cornet was one of the foremost proponents of Catalan Modernisme (Catalan Art Nouveau). Drawing from Oriental forms, neo-Gothic art, and the rhythms of nature and faith, Gaudí developed a distinctive, fluid style that merged ceramics, stained glass, wrought iron, and woodwork into living, organic structures. Revered as "God's Architect" for the spiritual imagery in his works, Gaudí was declared "Venerable" by Pope Francis in April 2025 — a step toward sainthood. Most of Gaudí's masterpieces stand in Barcelona, and between 1984 and 2005, seven of them were declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including his unfinished magnum opus, La Sagrada Família.

La Sagrada Família

Rising near the heart of Barcelona, Sagrada Família's story began in 1882 under architect Francisco de Paula del Villar. A year later, Gaudí took charge, transforming the original design with his signature blend of Gothic and Art Nouveau influences.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the basilica is the largest unfinished Catholic church in the world, envisioned with 18 spires. When completed, the tallest spire — representing Jesus Christ — will rise 172.5 meters, crowned

Park Guell in all its vintage glory.

The towering spires of La Sagrada Familia.

with a luminous cross. **The church features three grand façades:**

- **The Nativity Façade (East):** A celebration of life, rich with vines, leaves, and the Tree of Life, where turtles, tortoises, and chameleons symbolise the sea, land, and transformation.
- **The Passion Façade (West):** Stark and angular, depicting Christ's suffering.
- **The Glory Façade (South):** Still under construction, representing the road to salvation.

Inside, towering columns branch out like trees, filling the space with a forest of stone and light. The coloured stained-glass windows cast a rainbow across the interiors, creating a spiritual symphony of light. This monumental church — part sculpture, part forest, part prayer — is Barcelona's identity carved in stone, and Gaudí's greatest devotion.

Casa Milà

Just 500 meters from Casa Batlló on Passeig de Gràcia stands Casa Milà, constructed between 1906 and 1912 for industrialist Pere Milà. Gaudí designed the building as a continuous curve, inside and out, earning it the nickname La Pedrera — "the stone quarry."

Its undulating limestone façade, twisted wrought-iron balconies, and organic rooftop forms embody movement and nature. The roof itself, adorned with mosaic and marble fragments, hosts surreal chimneys, nicknamed espanta bruixes ("witch scarers"), that resemble helmeted warriors or snails.

Though criticised for its unconventional appearance at the time, Casa Milà was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. Today, it's celebrated as a "work of art" and serves as a venue for exhibitions and cultural programs. Author Dan Brown immortalised it in his novel *Origin*.

Casa Batlló

A few steps away, Casa Batlló stands as one of Gaudí's most whimsical masterpieces. Designed in 1904, it resembles something between a skeleton and a dragon. Locals call it Casa dels Ossos — "House of Bones" — because of its skeletal balconies and irregularly shaped windows.

Its façade shimmers with green, blue, and golden mosaics made from broken ceramic tiles — Gaudí's signature trencadís technique. The roof, arching like a dragon's back, glitters with scaled tiles in blues and greens, while a bulbous tower evokes the thalamus of a flower: nature, once again, reborn in architecture.

Wedged between traditional row houses, Casa Batlló became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005, a vivid example of Gaudí's genius for merging fantasy with function.

Park Güell

Gaudí's playful spirit finds full expression in Park Güell, a kaleidoscopic blend of architecture and landscape. Built between 1900 and 1914, the park was added to the UNESCO list in 1984. Its entrance is guarded by the famed dragon fountain "El Drac," covered in bright mosaic tiles, a symbol of protection and imagination. Serpentine benches, whimsical pavilions, and fluid mosaic walls evoke a fairytale world. From the park's highest terrace, visitors can gaze across Barcelona, with the spires of Sagrada Família visible in the distance.

Gaudi's legacy

When Gaudí died in 1926, struck by a tram, he was laid to rest in the crypt of the Sagrada Família — his life's unfinished masterpiece. Nearly a century later, his designs continue to shape Barcelona's skyline and spirit.

DISCOVER INDIAN ART

Lota: South Asia's most versatile vessel!

The lota, the earliest instance of which was found in Harappa, has been cited as an example of great design, with a perfect synthesis of form and function

Goddess Kamalatmika, The Hindu Art Studio, West Bengal, 1880–85.

A distinctive handheld vessel with a round body, constricted neck and flared circular mouth, the lota is ubiquitous in South Asia. Besides storing water for drinking, it is used to pour liquids in rituals and ablutions. Traditionally made of brass, the lota is known as karuwa in Nepal, bodna or kolshi in West Bengal, kindi in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and chembu or chambu in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka.

The earliest instance of lota-shaped vessels has been found at archaeological sites in Harappa in present-day Pakistan and central India. At Harappa, they have frequently been found next to toilets, attesting to their use in ancient hygiene practices. Pottery traditions contemporaneous with the Mature and Late Harappan phases, such as the Kayatha and the Malwa cultures, have also revealed the use of such vessels.

Ritual ewer, Bhaktapur, Nepal, 1733, copper alloy.

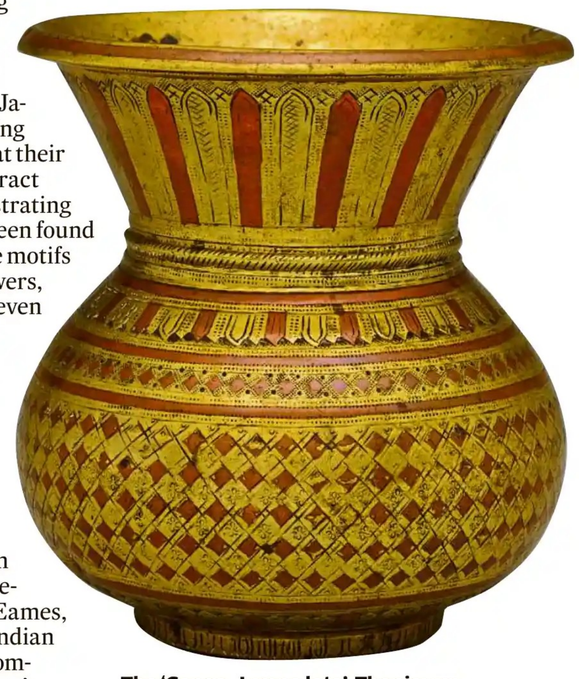
Thought to be modelled on globular vegetables and fruits like gourds and mangoes, the lota has a bulbous body and a short neck that flares sharply into a wide mouth with a rim to facilitate pouring. It has a flat bottom for stability, while the neck makes it easy to hold and carry. The vessel has a special place in Hindu, Jain and Buddhist rituals — for holding and pouring holy water to bathe idols and purify worshippers. Its form and symbolic function closely parallel those of the similarly shaped kalasha, which appears widely in iconography and architecture across South Asia.

Some historic specimens of the lota show intricate embellishment of metals and gemstones, reflecting centuries of elite patronage. Silver or copper, applied onto a brass lota, is often known as Ganga-Jamuna, after the contrasting colours of the two rivers at their point of confluence. Abstract patterns, potentially illustrating Islamic influence, have been found on many lotas. Figurative motifs — comprising plants, flowers, fish, birds and lions, and even humans, gods or sacred symbols — are also common. The bulge typically displays larger designs, while the neck and the base are ornamented with bands of intricate patterns.

In 1958, the lota received special recognition by American industrial designers Charles and Ray Eames, who were invited by the Indian government to make recommendations for the country's design education. In The India Report, which they published as a culmination of their study, the lota was cited as an example of great design, with perfect synthesis of form and function. Such an object could not have been designed by one person alone, but had been collectively shaped over generations, it said. The report recommended a course of training to foster a similar socially-oriented sensibility for India's upcoming designers. The National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad was established three years later on the basis of these recommendations.

Today, stainless steel lotas are common in households while brass is reserved for rituals. Continuing with the ancient Harappan tradition, they are still used in personal hygiene, mostly in rural areas. In urban Indian toilets, plastic mugs, used in conjunction with plastic buckets, have largely replaced the traditional lota.

Discover Indian Art *is a monthly column that delves into fascinating stories on art from across the subcontinent, curated by the editors of the MAP Academy. Find them on Instagram as @map_academy*



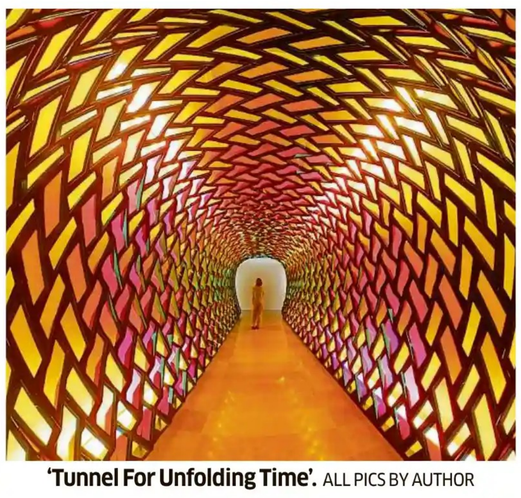
The 'Ganga-Jumna lota', Thanjavur, 19th century, brass and copper. ALL PICS COURTESY: THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

MUSEUM MATTERS

Where centuries collide in colour...

A crumbling palace turned art sanctuary, this museum in Valencia fuses Jewish, Christian, and digital histories into one cultural continuum, says Veidehi Gite

Jaume Plensa's installation.



'Tunnel For Unfolding Time'. ALL PICS BY AUTHOR

In Valencia's former Jewish quarter, where medieval walls once divided Christian and Jewish neighbourhoods, stands one of Europe's boldest cultural transformations. The Hortensia Herrero Art Centre is located in the Palacio de Valeriola, a 17th-century Baroque palace that had fallen into ruin and briefly served as Valencia's priciest nightclub in the 1980s. "It was full of velvet curtains, candles, and perfume," says guide Elena Navarro Arro, gesturing to the restored ceilings. "And it was nearly in ruins."

The palace now houses works by more than 50 contemporary artists, including Anselm Kiefer, Georg Baselitz, Anish Kapoor, Tomás Saraceno, Jaume Plensa, Olafur Eliasson, Sean Scully, and Mat Collishaw. The Hortensia Herrero Foundation, led by the vice president of Spain's grocery giant Mercadona, purchased the decaying palace in 2016. Herrero poured €40 million and five years into its restoration, transforming it into a cultural phoenix that honours every era it has survived. "We are inside what once was the Jewish border," Navarro notes, standing in the former home of the Valeriola family, Jewish merchants who converted to Christianity in the 16th century. The palace's magic lies in how its seven site-specific installations converse with its architecture and layered past. In the main hall, Tomás Saraceno's 'Cloud Cities' suspends iridescent glass forms above the central elevator shaft. "When the light touches them, colours change with the time of day," says Navarro, as rainbow reflections dance across centuries-old stone. Nearby, Jaume Plensa's monumental sculpture — formed entirely from Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese letters of the alphabet — becomes what Navarro calls "the belly button of the museum," a symbol of cultural unity.

The most visceral encounter waits in the noble room, where Anselm Kiefer's 'Walhalla' dominates: a massive slab of lead, 280 x 380 x 38 cm and weighing 650 kilograms.

"He first painted a traditional canvas, then poured molten lead over it," Navarro explains. The violent transformation echoes Kiefer's postwar origins — his birthplace, Donaueschingen, was bombed in 1945. Too large for the doors, the sculpture was brought in through a wall, sealing a balcony forever. "It's forever here," Navarro says.

Olafur Eliasson's 'Tunnel for Unfolding Time' turns perception itself into a medium. Visitors walk through a corridor of 1,035 glass panels glowing in rainbow light — until a turn of the head makes them go black. It's a meditation on how time and memory shift as we move through them.

Elsewhere, optical and kinetic works invite movement and play. Jesús Rafael Soto's rods merge and shimmer with the background as visitors move, while Iván Navarro's 'Strike' mirrors a tunnel into infinity, reflecting both the viewer and the artist's own confrontation with dictatorship.

The palace's restored 18th-century chapel holds Sean Scully's abstract stained glass, glowing softly beneath ceiling paintings by a 17-year-old Joaquín Sorolla, created in 1881 as payment for art supplies. The top floor, the Andana, retains its rustic wooden beams and storage feel, while the Torre Miramar recalls the merchants' vantage point over the Mediterranean. "They watched ships arrive from up there," Navarro notes.

The collection stretches across continents and centuries, from Anish Kapoor's dizzying concave mirror to El Anatsui's monumental tapestry made from liquor bottle caps, a shimmering critique of colonialism and consumption.

In the center's second building, digital art takes over. TeamLab's interactive installation creates a virtual village that mirrors Valencia's real-time weather and seasons. Digital inhabitants respond to touch; if treated violently, they perish.

"If visitors persist, there will be a massacre," Navarro explains. "After that, only nature returns; people never appear again." Down in the basement, history and illusion meet. Mat Collishaw's 'Left in Dust' suspends holographic horses mid-gallop over excavated bones from Valencia's Roman circus — a ghostly resurrection of ancient speed and spectacle. Just steps away lie real fragments of the city's past: the curved wall of a medieval Jewish alley, soot-stained ovens, the calm geometry of an Islamic fountain.

Here, time doesn't pass; it circles.

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From ancient forts to pearling villages, the northernmost Emirate's rich past offers much for the curious traveller to explore, writes Chaitali Patel

Ras Al Khaimah's TIMELESS ALLURE

On a blistering summer morning, I have the Mohammed bin Salem Mosque in the old town of Ras Al Khaimah all to myself. I have been to Ras Al Khaimah or RAK, as it's commonly known, several times before. But those visits have always been to explore its wild side: its long coastline or craggy mountains. I am here to delve into its lesser-known history and heritage this time.

A single-storey structure, the mosque stands at the water's edge with the infinite ocean stretching ahead. Records show that a mosque has stood here from the 16th century, destroyed and rebuilt several times. Corals, rocks from the ocean and date palm wood feature heavily in its construction.

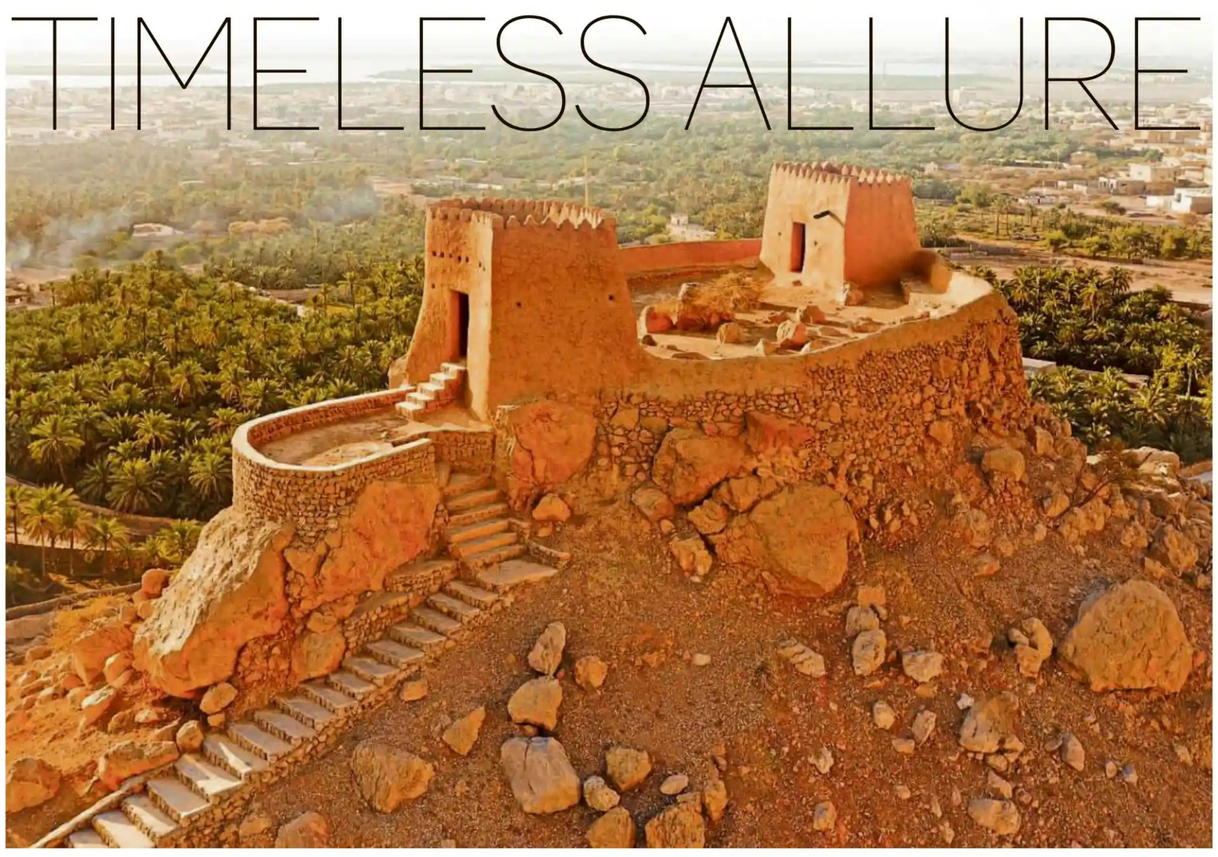
A cultural intermingling

A stone's throw away from the serene mosque, RAK's fish market is abuzz with activity. Malayali and Arabic words mingle just as the smell of the sea does with the heady Oud perfume worn by the locals shopping for fresh catch.

Life here has always been about the intermingling of cultures and languages. Records show that the northernmost Emirate of the UAE has been continuously inhabited for over 7,000 years. Its location at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz giving access to the Arabian Gulf, has been its trump card. Sought after by the Portuguese and the British as a vital maritime port, RAK witnessed clashes between local tribes and invaders.

The National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah housed in a 200-year-old fortress harks back to this period of RAK's history. Local guide, Hasina Muhammad, tells me that the building was attacked by the Portuguese in 1621 and by British forces in 1820. The current structure served as the residence of the ruling Quwasim family until 1964 and was converted into a museum in 1987.

Of the many rooms in the museum, the one that stood out for me was the madbasa – a room dedicated to making date syrup. I learn that dates were piled together and left for anywhere between 40 days and six months in the dark. The dates eventually melted and the sticky liquid which dripped down was collected in a jar. The museum is filled with artefacts chronicling the different periods of RAK's long history. Muhammad points to a jar found by a lady on her walk by the beach. Nearby hangs a board asking people to bring in objects that they find.



Dhayah Fort, the last remaining hill fort in the UAE, was captured by British troops in the 1819 Persian Gulf campaign. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Traditional wooden dhows were used for pearling expeditions. The wood used for these boats came from India and Africa.

House of Pearls by Suwaidi Pearls is a pearl farm situated in the village of Al Rams, beneath the shadow of the Hajar Mountains.

Pearling villages

My next stop is the House Pearls by Suwaidi Pearls in the village of Al Rams. A wooden dhow brings me to a floating pontoon in a lagoon circled by mangroves. Started by Abdulla Rashed Al Suwaidi hailing from a family of pearl divers, the farm introduces visitors to the nuances of pearl diving. Before the discovery of oil, fishing and pearling were the primary occupations of those who lived along the coast. Julfar, as RAK was once called, was known to produce the highest quality of pearls in the world, finding takers from India, China and Europe. With the advent of commercial pearls, traditional pearling almost slipped into oblivion.

At the once derelict Jazirat al-Hamra or Al Jazeera Al Hamra pearling village, I walk around what was once a wealthy and thriving settlement of pearl divers and merchants. The Zaab tribe who lived here owned a fleet of 25 pearling boats.

When the pearling industry began to decline, the village lay abandoned for several years. Now on the UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Tentative List, its buildings made with coral, fossilised beach rocks, date palm wood and trunks of mangrove trees have been partially restored. The village is an example of Middle Eastern town planning, with a fortress, a souq, mosques, small homes and larger ones with a courtyard.

Living in harsh terrain with a gruelling climate meant that those who lived in these parts had to be ingenious. In the piercing afternoon sun, I follow my guide Nawfal Saeed up 239 steps to the top of the Dhayah Fort. Built on a 70-metre high hill, the fort is the last remaining hill fort in the UAE. Surrounded by date palm farms and flanked by the Jebel Jais mountains, it stayed shielded from British artillery because of its inland position, Saeed tells me. It was only when the British changed tactics, and entered through the lagoons that they could capture it. As the sun melts into the horizon and the sky turns liquid gold, I marvel at those who have lived here, rising to the challenges that came over centuries.

GRAND EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

CAIRO'S NEWEST ATTRACTION

The Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) near the ancient Pyramids of Giza, just outside Cairo, has opened its doors on November 1, after two decades of delays. Here are five things to know about museum, which is labelled "the largest cultural building of the 21st century" with 24,000 square metres of permanent exhibition space.

The Fourth Pyramid

An imitation of the nearby pyramids of Khufu, Khafre and Menkaure, the museum's triangular glass structure, dubbed the "fourth pyramid", houses around 1,00,000 artefacts from the 30 dynasties of Egypt's pharaohs.

Statue of Ramses II

A 36-foot granite statue of Ramses the Great (Ramses II) greets visitors in the entrance atrium. His statue has toured the world twice, and the GEM will be its final home after many relocations since its discovery in 1820 near a Memphis temple.

Treasures of Tutankhamun

One gallery is dedicated to the 5,000 artefacts from the collection of King Tutankhamun, the most well-known figure of Ancient Egypt. The full collection is in one place for the first time since its discovery in 1922.

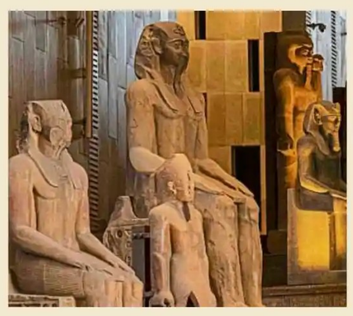
Solar boats

A separate building was designed for the 4,600-year-old solar boat of Pharaoh Khufu, one of the largest and oldest wooden artefacts from antiquity. The 44-metre-long (144-foot) cedar and acacia wooden boat was discovered in 1954 near the Great Pyramid of Khufu, the largest of the three structures.

Panorama

The GEM is built around a six-storey staircase lined with mammoth statues and ancient tombs leading to a panoramic window with a view of the nearby pyramids. Twelve main galleries trace civilisation across 5,000 years of history, from prehistoric times to the Roman era.

(AFP)



ADVERTORIAL

Advertorial

Switzerland in Winter

Neil Patil
Founder, COO & CTO
Veena World
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...Here's why the magic of Switzerland truly unfolds when the snow begins to fall...

When most people in India think of Switzerland, they picture green valleys, bright summer skies, and snow-capped peaks basking in gentle sunlight. That's the Switzerland of summer holidays, the one we have all seen in countless Bollywood films. But what if I told you that the real magic of Switzerland unfolds not under the summer sun, but during the crisp, enchanting winter months?

This December, Sunila (my co-founder and Veena World's Chief Product Officer) and I will be travelling to Switzerland with a very specific mission: to explore new gems, enhance our tours, and experience the country in its full winter glory. From snow-covered chalets to Christmas markets that glow with fairy lights, and mountain towns where time seems to slow down, Switzerland in winter is an entirely different story.

So today, let me tell you why Switzerland in December might just be your perfect plot twist. Let's begin.

Why Winter?

If summer is when Switzerland shines, winter is when it truly sparkles. The air is crisper, the landscapes turn into snow-globe scenes, and every corner feels like it's been touched by magic. For Indian travellers used to planning their European holidays in May or June, a winter trip offers a completely different, and dare I say, more immersive experience.

December in Switzerland isn't just about snow. It's also the month of festive cheer. Picture this: cobbled streets lined with twinkling lights, steaming cups of mulled wine at Christmas markets, children skating in public squares, and the faint sound of carols echoing from churches. There's something wonderfully old-world about it all.

Beyond the aesthetic, winter offers activities that summer simply can't. Skiing, snowboarding, sledging, or even just riding a cable car through an alpine blizzard. These moments stay with you. And then there's the cosy side of winter: fireside dinners, hot cheese fondues, luxurious thermal spas surrounded by snow. It's indulgent, it's atmospheric, and it's Switzerland at its storybook best.

So, if you have ticked off the summer postcard views, or are looking for a new kind of European adventure, winter opens a door into Switzerland's quieter, more romantic, and deeply charming self.

The Bollywood Connection

For many Indian travellers, the idea of Switzerland didn't begin in a guidebook; it began on a movie screen. From the sweeping valleys of 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' to the snowy peaks in 'Chandni' and 'Mohabbatein,' Bollywood has painted Switzerland as the ultimate romantic dreamland. And it worked. Generations of moviegoers fell in love with the country, long before they ever held a passport.

Yash Chopra, in particular, played a huge role in this cinematic love affair. In fact, the Swiss government honoured him with a statue in Interlaken and even named a lake view point after him. His movies didn't just showcase the Alps; they made them aspirational, and very much Indian in their storytelling. Today, locations like Saanen, Gstaad, and Jungfraujoch are visited not just for their natural beauty but also because they were immortalised on screen.

Even today, walking through the streets of Lucerne or riding the scenic train to Jungfrau, you'll hear Hindi music in souvenir shops or see Bollywood posters welcoming Indian guests. Switzerland knows its importance in our cinematic hearts, and welcomes us with just the right blend of nostalgia and charm.

The Classics

Let's be honest, there's a reason why first-time travellers to Switzerland, especially from India, almost always start with the classics. They are iconic for a reason.

Mount Titlis is usually the first snow experience for many Indian travellers. The revolving cable car, the Titlis Cliff Walk, and of course, the thrill of touching real snow for the first time - it never gets old. And yes, don't forget to take that signature photo in front of the DDLJ cut-out!

Jungfraujoch – The Top of Europe is another postcard moment. At over 11,000 feet above sea level, the train journey itself is as magical as the destination. Ice palaces, panoramic views of the Aletsch Glacier, and that feeling of literally being on top of the world - it's unforgettable.

Lucerne with its Chapel Bridge and Lion Monument, and Interlaken sandwiched beautifully between two lakes, offer the perfect base to explore the Bernese Oberland region. These towns are charming, walkable, and filled with Swiss character.

Zurich, on the other hand, adds a cosmopolitan flair to your journey with lakeside promenades, vibrant Christmas markets in winter, and some of the best chocolate you'll ever taste.

These places may be well-trodden, but they never lose their magic. And if you're planning your first trip, they're still the perfect start.

The Hidden Gems

Beyond the snow globes of Titlis and the peaks of Jungfraujoch lies another Switzerland - quieter, often less crowded, and deeply rewarding.

Zermatt, nestled at the foot of the majestic Matterhorn, is a car-free village that feels like it's straight out of a fairy tale. Come winter, it transforms into a skier's paradise, with pristine slopes and après-ski charm. But even if you don't ski, just the view of the Matterhorn glowing pink at sunset is reason enough to go. And yes, it's also the setting for many Bollywood film shoots, with snow-blanketed trails perfect for cinematic romance.

Glacier 3000, near Gstaad, is another winter wonderland often missed by first-time visitors. Where else can you walk on a suspension bridge between two mountain peaks and toboggan down snowy curves, all with panoramic views of the Alps in every direction! It's thrilling, yet serene.

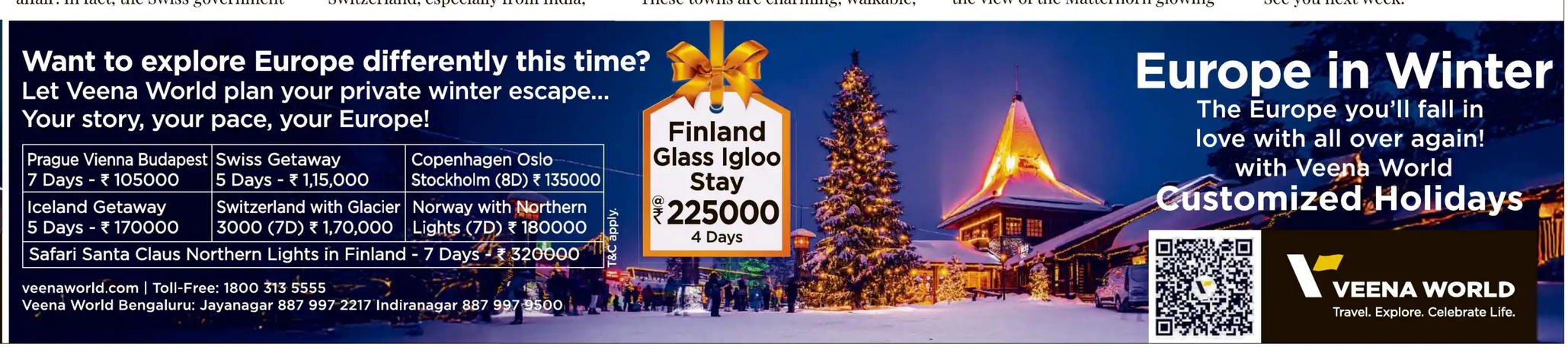
Gstaad itself deserves a closer look. Popular with celebrities, it's effortlessly luxurious yet still retains a village-like feel. Its wooden chalets, gourmet dining, and snow-covered promenades create a picture-perfect winter escape. No wonder so many Bollywood celebrities have made it their getaway of choice.

The Eternal Love Affair

For Indian travellers, Switzerland is a dream stitched into decades of cinematic nostalgia. From the fluttering chiffon sarees of Yash Raj heroines to Shah Rukh Khan running across meadows, Bollywood has painted Switzerland as the ultimate romantic paradise. And winter adds a whole new dimension to this love story.

And it's not just about nostalgia. Today's filmmakers still return to Switzerland for its unmatched combination of beauty, accessibility, and versatility. It's where reel meets real, and you too can live those scenes.

So the next time you think of Switzerland, don't limit yourself to summer meadows and postcard-perfect greenery. Think snowflakes, twinkling markets, frozen lakes, and the cosy joy of fondue by the fire. That's the Switzerland I'm heading to this December with Sunila, on a mission to discover more, improve what we already love, and maybe, just maybe, find the next Bollywood backdrop. See you next week.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